

HONORING MOTHERS

MAY 8, 2016

In 1907 Anna Jarvis started a campaign to honor mothers that resulted in Mother's Day becoming a national holiday in 1914. Her accomplishment soon became a disappointment because of how it became commercialized. In 1923, she filed a lawsuit to stop the celebration and was arrested for disturbing the peace at a war mother's convention. She wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit. Today, moms don't mind getting flowers or cards.

Many scenarios exist that make preaching a Mother's Day sermon difficult. Couldn't have children, mother or child's death, given up for adoption, abusive mom, rebellious child, suicide.

THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Honoring mom is commanded in scripture. - **EX. 20:12**
 - A. To honor means to give great weight to. She's worth her weight in gold.
 - B. **LEV. 19:3** – Fear means to reverence, and highly esteem. Fear expressed in respectful conduct toward her.
2. Dishonoring mom produces a curse. - **DEUT. 27:16 (ESV)**
 - A. Scripture has nothing good to say to those who dishonor mom.
 - **PR. 20:20 (ESV); 30:17 (ESV); LEV. 20:9 (NIV); DEUT. 21:18-21**
 - B. God takes dishonoring moms seriously.
3. How to honor mothers.
 - A. Obedience – **EPH. 6:1-3** – Obedience is right and displays honor. **1 SAM 15:22-23** – Obedience is better than sacrifice. Rebellion and stubbornness are equal to witchcraft and idolatry.
 - Obedience results in a good, long life. **PR. 1:8-9** - God's loving grace rests upon obedient children which is comparable to the highest honor kings bestow upon their favorites.
 - Disobedience is deeply rooted in sin and shows a lack of regard for God. Are we giving mom obedience?
 - B. Respect – **1 PET. 2:17 (NIV)** - Because of her person and position mom should be highly esteemed and regarded. Respect involves the way we think about and treat someone.
 - In eastern cultures parents and grandparents were highly regarded and even worshipped!
 - C. Affection – **1 KINGS 19:20 (NLT)** - Elisha demonstrated loving affection properly due his parents.
 - This can be shown with hugs, kisses and words.
 - More phone calls are made on Mother's Day, collect calls on Fathers' Day.
 - D. Decisions – **PR. 10:1** - When children act wisely, the mother's heart is at peace.
 - **PR. 17:25** – When a child acts in foolishness, her heart is greatly disturbed.
 - E. Care – **MT. 15:4-9** – The Scribes taught the people to give to the temple instead of caring for parents.
 - **JOHN 19:25-27** – Jesus made certain His mother would be cared for. We must care for our elderly parents also.

CONCLUSION:

Giving mom candy and flowers is good, but giving obedience, respect, affection, and living righteous lives is better. – **PR. 23:24-25**