

"Momma" Mia

Our calendars tell us that today is called Mother's Day. As Christians we are commanded to honour our parents, but it's also the sensible and loving thing to do. Many of us here today wish our moms were still living, so we could make today special for them.

A six-year-old boy, separated from his mother in a supermarket, began to call frantically for "Martha! Martha! Martha!" That was his mother's name and she came running to him quickly. "But, honey," she admonished, "you shouldn't call me 'Martha', I'm 'Mother' to you." "Yes, I know," he answered, "but this store is full of mothers."

Our world is full of mothers, but we have only one who is 'our' mother and no one can take her place.

Someone wrote: "You've turned into a Mom when:

1. You automatically double-knot everything you tie.
2. You find yourself humming the Barney song as you do the dishes.
3. You are out for a nice romantic meal with your husband, enjoying some real adult conversation, when suddenly you realize that you've reached over and started to cut up his steak!"

On this day set aside to honour mothers, let me share three other thoughts with you.

I. HER HANDS WORK

A boy got his first job. As he was boasting about the amount of work he did, he said, "I get up at 5 a.m. and have my breakfast."

He was asked, "Does anyone else get up too?"

He replied, "Oh yes, mother gets up and fixes my breakfast and then fixes dad's breakfast."

"And what about your dinner?"

The boy said, "Oh, mother, fixes that too."

"Does your mother have the afternoon to herself?"

The boy replied, "No, mama cleans the house, looks after the other children, and then gets supper for me and dad when we come home. Then we watch TV before we go to bed."

"What about your mother? What does she do?"

The boy replied, "Mama washes some clothes and irons the rest of the evening."

"Do you get paid?"

"Of course, Dad and I get paid."

"And what about your mother, does she get paid too?"

The boy replied, "MOTHER, GET PAID?! MOTHER DON'T GET PAID. SHE DON'T DO NO WORK."

Proverbs 31 sheds a different perspective. Remember the litany in our bible reading?

She sews, she shops, she cooks and she gardens. Scripture stresses that she certainly isn't lazy.

I was born in 1944, I was an only child.

My Mom was not a well person. Having had pneumonia, her respiratory system was in very poor condition. She died in 1971, when I was 27 & she was 53.

I remember, years before, going to the zoo one Saturday, with my whole Sunday School class. Before setting off, mom pressed some money into my hand & said, "Buy something special for yourself, to make a memory."

I loved my mother like only a mamma's boy could. I looked and looked for something to buy myself as a reminder of this day. All I could think of was that mom didn't have a lot of money, yet she gave to me, so I'd have a good time.

There were ice-creams, popcorn, toy cars, souvenirs of all sorts. I made my purchase. Some of the other kids asked me what I had chosen. I kept that secret, because they might have made fun of me.

When I got home, after asking if I had had a good time, she asked me what I bought to make a memory. I pulled out the wrapped package & gave it to her.

I had actually bought a decorative plate; it had taken all of the money mom gave to me. She opened it and within 10 seconds she was crying. I was upset to see mum in such a state and I asked her what was the matter. Didn't she like the plate?

She said, "No, it's not the plate that made me cry, it was the inscription."

It read:

'I have a sweetheart,
I would have no other.
She's more than all the world to me,
Because her name is MOTHER.'

Some of you know about those days ... nothing fancy in our homes, no extras. But my mom worked hard, she cooked meals, she cleaned house, washed clothes then ironed them (I helped to sprinkle the clothes), put in a garden, and later, worked as a machinist, while still taking care of the home. THANK YOU, MUM, FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

Point number 2 - HER MOUTH SPEAKS

Prov. 31:26 "She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue."

When Preacher John Wesley was a student at Oxford University, he was shocked by the amount of drinking done by the students. (Wonder what he would think about university students today?)

After writing to his mother, Susanna Wesley, for her counsel, he received the following words: "My dear son: remember that anything which increases the authority of the body over the mind, is an evil thing."

Great instruction! And I'm sure that Susanna Wesley said a lot of other good words of wisdom to her children.

My last point - HER HEART LOVES

The unselfishness of a mother shows a heart of love for her family. And all of us can remember many unselfish acts of devotion.

Thomas Edison once said, "I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time in my experience, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber, I should have turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness, were potent powers to keep me on the right path. My mother was the making of me. The memory of her will always be a blessing to me."

What a loving tribute to a blessed mother! *Our* tribute this morning, to mothers who are no longer with us, is the remembrance of how their hands worked, their mouths spoke, and their hearts loved.

Today I hope you will take some time to recall those special moments with your mother, the meals, the laughter, the words of wisdom and most of all, the hugs from your "Momma" Mia. AMEN