

## Mothers, the Ultimate King and Queen Makers

Text: I Kings 1:5-39

Although God gives men the assignment to be the head of the home, the mother seems to be the heart of the home. If you think about it, when God wanted to show His never failing concept of His eternal love, He took one of the strongest bonds on earth, a mother and her child for comparison. In Isaiah 49:15 we read, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Isaiah 66:13 reminds us, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Listen to some things that history makers have said about the influence of their mother:

"All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her" (George Washington).

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother" (Abraham Lincoln).

"I cannot tell you how much I owe to the solemn word of my good mother" Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

"The last thing that you can rob from a boy is that which he learned from his mother's knee. The hand that rocks the cradle will rule the world. There is more power in a mother's hand than in a king's scepter" (Billy Sunday).

"What a mother sings to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin" (Henry Ward Beecher).

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul pays tribute to the influence of motherhood when he wrote in II Timothy 1:5, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

In our text we see that the very popular son of David, Adonijah is attempting a coup d'état, making himself king. It needs to be understood that Absalom and Adonijah were already born when God promised David in II Samuel 7:12,13, "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever." This future king "...shall proceed..." in other words, this king (Solomon) was not yet born. Both Absalom and Adonijah operated illegally from the beginning of their rebellious attempts. The true meaning of success lies in finding and doing the will of God for our lives. Chaos and confusion stalk the footsteps of those who try to be something or someone that God has not chosen them to be.

The kingdom is in trouble. The king is dying and Adonijah is grouping people in authority around himself that will be more than happy to help him attain the throne. It is important to note that Adonijah does not go to Nathan or Zadok, men loyal to the king and the plan of God for Israel. Rebels always look for hearts they may steal and people they may manipulate (I Kings 1:7-10). They learn very quickly whom they can and cannot sway. II Samuel 15:6: "And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." Proverbs 25:19: "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." Proverbs 20:6: "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

Enter our heroine, Bathsheba. This is no proverbial "stage mom" who simply wants her child to be the protagonist in life's play. She is a mother who has the acute understanding that God, in His providence and mercy has chosen her son, Solomon to be the federal head of the people of God, the nation of Israel. Let us meditate on three responsibilities that mothers must take in light of the events of David's dying and Solomon's coronation.

## 1. MOTHERS MUST OVERCOMPENSATE FOR FLAWS FOUND IN PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY WHEN NECESSARY.

Let's observe I Kings 1:5, 6: "Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king; and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom."

Matthew 20:21 informs us, "And He (Jesus) said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom." Here we see the mother desiring the very best for her sons. I do not fault her; what godly mother does not also want the best for her children? This mother did not want to exclude others from close fellowship with Jesus; she just wanted her sons to be as close to Jesus as humanly possible. As we examine the Gospels, we see she is much more proactive in her children's spiritual guidance than the father. Let me show you the only thing the Bible tells us about Zebedee, the dad, in Matthew 4:21b: "...He saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father...." Mark 1:20a: "And straightway He called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship...." We need not make more out of this than is revealed, but many a father is more interested in fishing, hunting and going to ball games with their children rather than making sure they are faithful to the House of God and getting as close to Jesus as is humanly possible. Too many times people in

authority fall down on the job. But thank God, many a mother has appropriately overcompensated for the authority figure who is “missing in action.”

## 2. MOTHERS MUST NOT ALLOW THE SINS OF THE PAST TO BE AN EXCUSE TO RECUSE THEM OF THEIR MATERNAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Look at I Kings 1:11-14. Like Esther, Bathsheba has “...come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14c). In this passage Nathan, the prophet clearly warns Bathsheba that if she does not act, it will cost the life of her and her son. Imagine! The Bible has not yet been finished. Solomon wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. The kingdom is at stake, the Bible is at stake, the seed of David, the carrier of the Messiah is in jeopardy.

Bathsheba must come to the realization that her sins are forgiven. Psalm 103:12: “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” We must not let past forgiven sins paralyze us from future usefulness.

## 3. MOTHERS MUST NEVER GIVE UP.

Read I Kings 1:15-31. Bathsheba was holding David to his word, which was, in fact, God’s word that her son would be king.

David Jeremiah recounts, “For more than three decades, Monica (mother of Augustine) prayed for her wild and wayward son. She followed him to Carthage. She followed him to Rome and to Milan, weeping and pleading, and assaulting heaven with perpetual missiles of prayer. Augustine recounts her faithfulness in praying for him in these words: ‘Thy hands, O my God, and the hidden design of thy providence did not desert my soul and out of the blood of my mother's heart, through the tears she poured out day by day and night by night, there was a sacrifice offered to Thee for me, and by marvelous ways, Thou didst deal with me.’ God used Romans 13:13-14 to bring Augustine to Himself. After Augustine converted, he said, ‘Then we went to my mother and told her what happened, and to her great joy, we explained to her how it occurred, and she leaped for joy triumphant, and she blessed God who is able to do exceeding abundant above all that we ask or think.’” Dr. Jeremiah continued, “Shortly after her son's conversion, Monica died, saying on her deathbed that her life's work was over, but her son's work was only beginning. Augustine went on to shape all subsequent Christian history, writing more than 1000 works, including 242 books, and giving us this remarkable account of a prodigal son and his praying mother.”

Thankfully, I was never able to escape the effect of my mother's prayers. Never give up living the consecrated, dedicated and prayerful Christian life. Your children are looking. Stay strong. Stay faithful. Stay prayerful. Galatians 6:9 admonishes, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.