

“Things Mom Would Teach!”

Job 42:10-17

Intro. – Wilfred Funk, noted lexicographer and dictionary writer, made the following suggestion years ago. He called it “The Ten Most Impressive Words in the English Language.”

“alone” = the bitterest word
“death” = the most tragic word
“faith” = brings greatest comfort
“forgotten” = saddest word
“love” = most beautiful word

“revenge” = the cruelest word
“friendship” = the warmest word
“no” = the coldest word
“tranquility” = peaceful word
“mother” = most revered word

I might question a couple of the words in the list, but, when it comes to Christian motherhood – certainly, one of the most revered words in the English language is *mother*.

Two little boys were fighting amongst themselves. One said, “My dad can beat up your dad!” The other little guy retorted, “Big deal, so can my Mom!”

We live in a time where God given roles for men and women are becoming less and less accepted. One of the outstanding roles that God has given women is the role of motherhood. The significance of motherhood and teaching are one in the same. Al Walker confirmed this by writing, “If at first you don’t succeed do it the way she (Mom) told you.” Robert Orben also confirmed this: “The newest development in manufacturing is robotics. Robots put in endless hours, function in difficult environments, never seem to run down, cost very little to maintain and do it all without any praise, attention or strokes. Actually robots aren’t new. They use to be called mothers.”

Brethren and friend, we must never take for granted the significance of Christian mothers in the past and present who have and are teaching the truths of God!

Purpose: to cover significant principles of TRUTH that Christian mothers teach

Job reveals principles my Mom taught me and I’m sure your Mom taught you: Things Mom Would Teach!

I DIFFICULTIES Will Come

- remember growing up with the biggest care being having to go back to school after summer break...

A. Job Was Tested

1. “*You have set a hedge about him...*” – i.e., he serves You only because You have blessed him...
2. Possessions (sizeable amount...), family..., and even his health is removed...
3. Job’s response? (Job 1:21b-22) “*...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.*”

B. We Will be Tested

1. Part of maturing (growing up) is being tested...
2. Hebrews 12:6 “*For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines...*”
3. The Lord loved Job and yet, look at *what* He permitted to have happen to Job...
 - Father loved His unique, one of kind Son and look at what He permitted to happen to Him!
4. He loves us and look at what he permits to happen to us...; yet, He wants us strong, trusting and more dependent upon Him than anyone else.
5. Mom let us be kids... but, she also prepared us for the difficulties to come...

C. The Reason Behind the Difficulties

1. Job’s character wasn’t faultless:
 - a. believe he had an elevated idea of himself and a bit too stern in his manners towards others.
 - b. how he responds to his three “friends” tells me he had a little of the *elder brother who stayed home* attitude in him...
 - c. but Job realized his imperfect character through the troubles... unveiled in God’s holiness Job abhorred himself (hand went to his mouth)...

2. Certainly our character is not flawless – we too need humbling...
 - a. difficulties permitted to help us see God’s grace alone will sustain through every challenge...
 - b. pride and self centeredness/righteousness are revealed during difficulties...; thus, we too are *unveiled* in the presence of a Holy and Righteous God!
3. God permits test to prove our faithfulness:
 - a. Illus. – if you build something that requires strength, be glad to have it tested = prove it was built right. Remember while living in Cheyenne, WY with “borrowed” construction material brothers and I built a fort in the ground. We knew it was built well when after completing it the next day we saw horse prints on top of it...
 - b. test it Satan... test it world... = with losses, reproaches etc. give it your best shot and see if we don’t conclude that God’s grace is sufficient!

Mom taught – difficulties will come, BUT GOD will always be there!

II CAPTIVITY Will be Turned

- i.e. God will RESTORE – Deuteronomy 30:3 “...*God will restore you from captivity and have compassion on you and will gather you again from all the people where the Lord your God has scattered you.*”
- the question is WHEN? And HOW LONG?

A. When the Sin is Found Out

1. Difficulties are permitted to help identify sin in our lives.
2. When identified and repented of we become like Israel with Achan when after he had been stoned to death the Valley of Achor became the door of great hope!

B. When Pride is Broken

1. Takes a life-time to be “broken in” = i.e. our will isn’t always God’s will is it?
2. Can we honestly say we are “completely resigned to God’s will in all matters”?
3. When we give up all prideful struggles and say, “Your will be done!” then our “captivity” will be turned. In other words, we will be free in again!!

C. When a Sympathetic Spirit is Obtained

1. How can one sympathize with that which they have never experienced? = i.e. difficulties can soften unsympathetic hearts.
2. God uses times of sickness, disappointments and loneliness to make us more sympathetic in spirit.
 - Illus. – woman knocked at neighbor’s. She was surprised when their six year old answered the door. “Hello, Susie. Are you here all alone?” “Yes,” replied the little girl. “Mommy is in the hospital and Daddy, Donald, Janet, Bobbie and I are here all alone.”
3. In Job’s case, when he prayed for his “friends” – God turned His captivity...
 - Mom taught us kids to pray for our enemies, not seek revenge and to return evil with good...

The resulting attitude will enable the Lord to turn our captivity as well!

III You Are Not a LOSER

A. God Restored Job

- twice as much... even family... daughters are named...

B. We Will Never Lose in Christ

1. Nothing is lost when it is offered to the cause of Christ!
2. Illus. – “In Heaven’s Eyes” = read the words...
3. Created in the “image of God” you and every human being is precious in the eyes of God...
 - all that is committed to Him is a guaranteed investment!

Conclusion: Summarize this message with reference to my Mother and Grandmother... My grandmother was a teacher many years ago. She went to be with the Lord in 1962 long before educators today who have dreamed up *quality of life* choices to teach young impressionable school kids. For example, “Lifeboat” is often taught in

one form or another. Shipwreck... one lifeboat can hold only 8 but there are 12 survivors (expectant mother, blue-collar worker, preacher, Nobel prize winner, 89 yr-old, down syndrome child etc.). Must decide who will be ordered into the icy waters (certain death) so the lifeboat won't be swamped...

Last time we saw Grandma Hoff in good health was Feb. 1962. She was visiting us in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cheyenne at that time was the headquarters for ICBM (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles) silos up and down the Rocky Mountains in the lower 48 states. This made Cheyenne, WY a prime target in the event of a nuclear war. Hardly a day went by without our being reminded of this one way or another. All of us in school timed our walks home from school to determine if we should be kept at school or sent home once missiles were launched... Our neighbor across the street was a contractor. His largest home improvement was a bomb shelter in his backyard...

It was this bomb shelter across the street that brought forth Grandma's principle for playing "lifeboat." In the local newspaper our neighbor's bomb shelter was featured. This article asked the question, "Would a homeowner be within his legal rights to shoot someone who tried to get in a bomb shelter provisioned adequately only for the homeowner and his immediate family? The answer in the article of the paper was "YES." Grandma's response? "Why, I think that's awful. That's a terrible thing to think! I would rather die than refuse help to a man who needs it to live."

With that simple statement, with her basic reverence for God and His image-bearing creatures, Grandma settled the lifeboat choices for me.

I use this to summarize what we can learn from Job. God is true and will always be so with us. We can count on Him, especially when difficulties come our way.

Things Mom Would Teach!