

“A Mother’s Reward!”

Exodus 2:1-10

Intro. – May 1, 1864, Anna May Jarvis was born in the home of a preacher’s family. She was described as a “quiet, studious girl who liked everyone and whom everyone liked in return.” Two weeks after her 41st birthday while working for an insurance company out of Philadelphia, Anna lost her mother. It was the 2nd Sunday of May, 1905. In the months that followed, Anna became obsessed with but one desire: to see her mother and motherhood honored annually throughout the world. Anna worked hard to promote her idea and dream. Finally, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation from Congress – a document recorded officially as “Public Resolution #25” – *To establish the 2nd Sunday in May as “Mother’s Day” forever.*

But Anna, now 50 years old was not content with her victory. She retired from her job and spent the remaining 34 years of her life, and her life’s savings campaigning against the commercialization of Mother’s Day. It was Anna Jarvis who said, “Mother’s Day has nothing to do with candy. Candy is junk. You give your mother a box of candy and then go home and eat most of it yourself.”

In November, 1948, the mother of Mother’s Day died. Interestingly enough, the rest of Anna’s story is that she never benefited from this time of remembrance. She never received “A Mother’s Reward” for you see Anna May Jarvis never was a mother herself.

I used this to intro. the appropriateness behind honoring our mothers today. We, like Anna May Jarvis, resent the commercialization of Mother’s Day. We seek simply to give honor where honor is due. With this in mind, let it be noted, any honor given to our mothers is deserving because of Christ. Honor always begins with our Lord!

Purpose: to see a mother’s reward is Godly children

It clearly taught in Scripture the best way to honor one’s mother is to be a faithful Christian. One mother’s life makes this so plain. She received a mother’s reward – she had faithful children. Her name was Jochebed:

I JOCHEBED HAD AN EMPLOYER

- look with me at this scene. You know it well. The Egyptian princess hands over a precious bundle of immortality to the arms of a Jewish slave. That slave is hugging her own child with a hungry heart.
- the princess is talking proudly, haughtily, as becoming her rank. *“Take this child away and nurse him for me and I shall give you your wages.”*
- away goes the mother, the happiest mother in the world, I think. Why?:

A. She Was God’s Employee

1. Ask this mom “Who is your employer?”
 - a. the attendants would say – “The princess is her employer... She is raising the child for her...”
 - b. the mother would say – “God is my employer. I will answer to Him, not the princess in how I train up this son of mine...”
2. We can be confident that Jochebed believed God to be her real employer – she believed herself to be a vessel through whom God could accomplish His will. She was God’s employee!!

B. She Was a Willing Employee

1. Jochebed was eager for the task God was making available to her. She was a *willing mother* knowing her joy/fulfillment was in the training of her children for God!
2. Today, we all know of mothers who would vigorously disagree with this:
 - a. motherhood is looked upon as being “restrictive, confining and just plain boring.”
 - b. Illus. – Ann Landers’ column asked, “If you had to do it all over again would you have kids?” 70% gave an emphatic “no” with numerous reasons all of which were self-centered.
3. Point: hardly Jochebed’s case – her “employment was the highest of privileges and she entered this task with a relentless eagerness...

C. She Was a Faithful Employee

1. Hebrews 11 we're told Moses was hidden *by faith* – Both parents (Amram/Jochebed) were people consecrated and devoted to God and to Him alone.
2. It is true they were slaves, living in dark days; yet, because of their faith in God they lived in light!
3. Unwilling/faithless employees, however, come a dime a dozen resulting in all sorts of heartache:
 - Illus. – 1963, So. Bend, IN Studebaker closed its doors due in part to faithless employees...
4. Make no mistake about it – Jochebed was a faithful employee. She had an employer – she was God's employee and was willing and faithful in her task. This impart reveals the reason Jochebed received a mother's reward.

II JOCHEBED HAD A TASK

- listen to the princess again: *"Take this child away and nurse him for me..."*
- A. Her Task Was Specific
 1. She was to *take this child* – means rear/train this child in your home environment...
 2. She was to *nurse* him = love, nurture, care and meet the baby's needs then and in the future...
 - B. Her Task Was Significant
 1. Her task was not to govern the world, become a celebrity, or be a career woman... Her task was far more significant than any or all of these put together!
 2. Her task was the highest and holiest of all tasks – train her child for God!...
 3. Significance of such a task is illustrated daily – what society is today, the home life of yesterday has made it. What society will be tomorrow – home life of today will make it...
 4. Moms, never apologize for being "just a housewife" – your task goes unmatched in significance!
- Jochebed knew the specifics/significance of her task and because of this she realized a mother's reward!

III JOCHEBED HAD SOME WAGES

- princess said she would give Jochebed her wages – perhaps she received a coin or two each week...
 - seriously doubt Jochebed counted this as pay at all; instead, her payment was a mother's reward:
- A. She Was Given the Privilege of Loving
 1. Being loved is a privilege – none would refute this...
 2. There is a higher privilege – that of giving the love:
 - Illus. – what Paul meant when he wrote: 1 Cor. 13:13 *"...but the greatest of these is love"*
 3. By God's grace, it has been given to mothers to be the world's greatest love givers... Jochebed certainly gloried in this reward.
 - B. She Was Given the Privilege of Giving
 1. Jochebed was able to offer her life as a willing sacrifice upon the altar of her home...
 2. Our Lord said Acts 20:35 *"...it is more blessed to give than to receive."*
 - Illus. – most Godlike giver this fallen world knows is the faithful mother... Because of this, a mother's reward is of the highest rewards.
 - C. She Was Given the Privilege to Make
 1. Here is the real key to a mother's reward – contributing to the making of a holy/Godlike life...
 2. Jochebed contributed: became mother of 2 great men and one great woman. Her faith became their faith:
 - a. Moses – became a great leader and legislature...
 - b. Aaron – became Israel's first High Priest and was the founder of the Aaronic priesthood.
 - c. Miriam – became a gifted poetess/musician working closely with 2 brothers in Israel history..
 3. Jochebed's faith – spoke to her kids through her lips, life and whole being. What resulted? A mother's reward!

Conclusion: There is no reward like that of the successful enterprise of motherhood. But while it is true that none can bring more joy, it is also true that none can so utterly break a mother's heart than faithless kids.

With this thought, I conclude by addressing myself to all children and then to all mothers.

First, to all children... Do you want to genuinely honor your mother...? Honor the Lord your God above all else and be assured your mother will experience a mother's reward!...

Finally, to all mothers, give yourselves the joy this old-time mother had. While your children are about you, hear the voice of God saying to you, "*Take this child away and nurse him for Me and I will give you your wages.*" Wages you'll receive just as surely as Jochebed received her wages. Remember, she received a mother's reward.