

A MOTHER'S WORK.

John 2:1-11.

May 14, 2006, Sunday A.M.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. One night a young boy was looking through the family's photo album when he came across his parent's wedding pictures. He asked his dad what they were and his father explained that was when he and his mother got married. The son then replied, "So that's when we got Mom to come work for us."
- B. Every mom is aware that her role involves much more than cooking, cleaning and car pooling.
 - 1. Your role involves nurture, guidance and building character.
 - 2. This role also doesn't change when your child moves out of the house.
 - 3. Today we're going to look at a story that shows us it was the same way with Jesus and his mom, Mary.
 - 4. Tell the story of the wedding at Cana, especially Mary's encounter with Jesus (John 2:1-11).
 - 5. Notice three lessons that both mothers and children can learn from this story, three things moms must continue to do for their children whether they are still in the home or not.

I. FIRST, BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE.

- A. Jamie Foxx, the actor portraying Ray Charles in the movie "Ray", never had the relationship with his father that he wanted. His parents lived 28 miles away in Dallas, but rarely visited or noted his accomplishments.

"I passed for more than 1,000 yards, the first quarterback at my high school to do that," says Foxx. "I was making the Dallas Morning News, and my father never came to see a single game. That's weird. Even to this day nothing but his absence made me angry. It made me want to be something..."
- B. Mary was involved in Jesus' life, though, as the exchange at this wedding confirms.
 - 1. Parents often make jokes about looking forward to the empty nest.
 - 2. However, both parents and children benefit from remaining involved in each other's lives.
 - a. This is not about controlling children.
 - b. This is not about making decisions for them.
 - c. This is not about adult kids staying financially dependent.
 - d. It's about keeping the communication lines open.
- C. There's a story about a man who called his mother and asked how she was doing. She replied that she was weak because she hadn't eaten in 32 days. When her son asked why she said, "*I didn't want my mouth full of food in case you should call.*"
 - 1. This is not keeping communication open, it's guilt.
 - 2. Mary didn't nag Jesus, but she did involve herself in His life.

II. SECOND, BE AWARE OF YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL.

- A. Mary was aware of her son's potential to perform a miracle (v. 11).
- B. Wendell Burton is an actor and musician. In the early 70's he was in "*The Sterile Cuckoo*," and he played in a number of television dramas. Sometime in the mid-seventies he became a Christian and he recorded a couple of albums of contemporary Christian music. Wendell's mother is a Christian, too. She was in a Home Bible Study with her church in Los Angeles, and a member of her Bible Study group was Bob Dylan. When she met him, she said, "*Oh, Mr. Dylan, you should meet my son. He's a songwriter, too. I'll bring you one of his albums.*" When she told Wendell about it, he was embarrassed. He said, "*Mom, please don't bother Bob Dylan. He's not interested in my music.*" Wendell's mom said, "*Sure he is! How could anyone not like your music?*" So, at the next Bible study, she gave Bob one of her son's records.

A couple of weeks later, Wendell got a call...from Bob Dylan. He said, "I listened to your record and I think it's good. In fact, I'm working on a song right now and I would like your input. Can you stop by my house and listen to it?"

Wendell said, "Only a mother would assume that Bob Dylan and I are on the same level as song-writers."

That's the kind of mother every son and daughter needs - one that recognizes his or her potential, even before every one else has a chance to. Look for the strengths in your children; remind them of the good they can do.

- C. There is a lesson here for children of all ages: your mom may see things in you that others don't see. She may see potential in you that not even you are aware of. Therefore listen to your mother and trust her judgment.

III. THIRD, BE WILLING TO LET YOUR CHILD DO THINGS THEMSELVES.

- A. Mary told Jesus of the situation, then let Him handle it (v.5).
 - 1. She didn't try to tell Him how to perform miracles!
 - 2. Every parent must learn to step back and allow their children to make their own decisions even if they disagree. This even includes their mistakes.
- B. Part of what makes parenting hard is the fact parents will always see their children as "children."

CONCLUSION.

- A. First lady Laura Bush recalls one overnight visit with her husband in the home of his parents, the former President and Mrs. Bush.

"George woke up at 6 a.m. as usual and went downstairs to get a cup of coffee," Mrs. Bush says. "And he sat down on the sofa with his parents and put his feet up. And all of a sudden, Barbara Bush yelled, 'Put your feet down!'.

"George's dad replied, 'For goodness' sake, Barbara, he's the President of the United States.'

"And Barbara said, 'I don't care. I don't want his feet on my table.' "

The president promptly did as he was told, for as Mrs. Bush observes: "Even Presidents have to listen to their mothers."

John McCaslin, The Washington Time.

- B. What we see from this story is that a mother never stops being a mother. And children never stop needing a mother.
- C. Therefore, mothers (and fathers) should...
 - Be involved in their children's lives.
 - Be aware of their potential.
 - Be willing to let them do things for themselves.