“Praise For a Woman Who Fears The Lord!”
Proverbs 31:28-31
Happy Mother’s Day!

- 3rd largest greeting card exchange day, with over 113 million projected for 2018; the LARGEST card exchange day in Hispanic culture
- 2nd largest gift exchange day, 2nd only to Christmas!
- 86% of Americans projected to spend $23.1 billion on flowers, cards, personal services (spa day, ) or average of $180 per mom!

* National Retail Federation
"I Love Lucy"

MOM!! XXX
The Power of Praise!

**Affirmation**: You are on the “right track”  
(answer to insecurities about self, leftovers from the Garden, Genesis 3)

**Validates personhood**: “you have value!”  
(answer to neglect and abuse)

**Strengthens resolve** in hard times:  
(answer to discouragement)

**Promotes confidence**:  
(the answer to fears) Prov. 31:25
The Sources of Praise!

Vs. 28 – her children \[\text{not just 1 day,}\]
Vs. 28 – her husband \[\text{but a LIFESTYLE}\]

The overlooked:
* single moms – no husband, untrained
  children = twice parenting demand; ½ income

So God raises up His family: the church!
Romans 13:7 + 1 Corinthians 12:24
The Trigger to Praise:
“A Woman Who Fears the Lord!”

Not just moms, but all women who fear the Lord!

Other competing, but “slack” reasons from the World’s point of view:
* Charm = is deceitful
* Beauty is vain – physical looks convey value, BUT consider the negative impact!
  Vain = a) child-bearing b) aging process
Drilling Down “Fearing the Lord!”

Exodus 20:18-20 – “fearing the Lord” meant:
* a) “getting rid of sin” – repentant
Proverbs 16:6 - “And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.”

* b) draw near to God; listen for His voice
"It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary” (Isaiah 8:13-14a).
God’s Promises To Those Who Fear Him

“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7).

“The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love” (Ps. 147:11).

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30).
Mother’s Day Challenge

1. Honor your mother, present or in memory! (Exodus 20:12) – 1st commandment on relating to others; and with a promise

2. Mobilize to support single-moms, doing double-duty on 1/2 the income (or less!)

3. Make the Lord #1 in your life today!