

A MOTHER'S DAY CHALLENGE

Open your Bibles this morning to one verse of Scripture, 1st Timothy 4:8.

“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

Let's bow for prayer!

This morning, this Mother's Day 2011, the message I have been given is more in the form of a plea and a challenge.

It is a plea to be all that we can be for God.

What is it that we need more than anything else in 21st Century America?

Well, you might say, “Preacher, we need a lot of things in 21st Century America,” and no doubt I would agree with you.

But if you could pick one thing what would it be?

Well, I know what I would pick!

What we need in 21st Century America more than we need anything else are “Godly Mothers,” and “Godly Fathers.”

I believe that this is the message that will save America!

Now how does that come about? How do we become godly mothers and fathers?

Does it always go back to how you were brought up?

Well, that does help.

I mean the Bible says, “Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

So, if I didn't have a great childhood, if I wasn't brought up the right way, or if I was and didn't listen does that mean that there is no hope for me?

Absolutely NOT!

A good friend of mine, a pastor, Bro. Roy Thompson was a drunk, an alcoholic until God got a hold of him! He was not brought up in the right way!

Mel Trotter was a drunk who stole the shoes, literally, from the feet of his dead daughter to buy booze. God made him a great evangelist.

God got a hold of Mel Trotter and changed him forever.

Yes, there is hope for you to become all that God wants you to be – mothers and fathers alike.

God will meet you right where you are.

God will and can and stands ready to change you in a moment, in an instant.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new – listen – new creature.”

As long as you are a living, breathing person, father or mother, you have hope.

Well, ok, how do I become a godly mother or maybe you're asking how do I become a godly father or a godly woman or a godly man?

I want to give you some principles this morning that will absolutely change your life and set you on the path to becoming that godly man or that godly woman, that godly father or that godly mother that God wants you to be.

Now I want to tell you that this is not an instantaneous thing! You knew I was going to say that, didn't you?

I don't have “spiritual maturity” in a bottle.

And another thing is this, you have to want it. You have to want to be that godly mother or that godly father.

God isn't going to force you but listen you and I are ultimately accountable to Him anyway. You have to desire it, want it, seek it, work towards it...it's a goal and sometimes it is elusive but it can be obtained.

Now the first principle is this and it's simple: You cannot be a godly mother or a godly father or a godly man or woman for that matter if you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Now I'm thinking along two intertwined lines here!

If you are not saved, you don't have a basis on which to build a Godly foundation.

You don't have the Holy Spirit living inside of you to guide you, to teach you, to illumine you!

Well, preacher I know that! I'm sure most of you do!

But let me just lay this on you!

It is possible for a person to come to church, to engage in all the activities, to be busy for God as a saved individual but to never, never enter into that deep personal relationship with Jesus.

If you aren't saved you can't.

If you are saved you can if you will!

You say, "Well, preacher, I don't think that's anywhere in the Bible."

But, you see, I think it is.

Turn with me to Luke 10:38.

Now here is what I want you to see!

Look closely at verse 39. Martha had a sister, Mary, who sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His word.

What was Mary doing?

She was developing that deep, personal, intimate relationship with God – the Son of God – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, she should have been up helping her sister!

That's what most of us would say. Mary needed to help Martha but listen, Jesus did not agree!

When Martha, verse 40, almost demanded that Jesus "bid her therefore that she help me," Jesus didn't not agree.

He said, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

What is Jesus saying?

Was Martha's job, tending to the house, serving all the guests, was that job not important?

No, it was and is important but there is one thing that is more important and that is a personal relationship with Jesus.

Not only is it important – it is, as Jesus put it, NEEDFUL!!!

It is the one thing that is needful! Of all the things that there are, this is the one thing that is most needful.

You cannot skip this part and become a godly man or woman.

You can be saved and live a carnal life – a life not pleasing to God but you cannot be the man or woman that God wants you to be without this part.

Then secondly, you cannot be a godly mother or a godly father or a godly anything apart from the Word of God.

You cannot be the person God wants you to be and never spend time in the Bible!

Neither can you be the person God wants you to be if the only time you study the Word of God is on Sunday morning!

God said that His word, “Is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.”

Actually, David or whoever wrote Psalm 119 personalized this when he said, “Thy word is a lamp unto MY feet and a light unto My path.”

Listen if you are not walking in the Word then you are walking in darkness.

The writer of this Psalm at least conveys the thought and the idea that the Word of God contains everything man needs to know.

I just don’t have the time to delve into this but the Bible, God’s Word, reveals everything we need to know about life and about being the kind of man or woman, father or mother that He wants us to be.

The Bible reveals God.

The Bible reveals Jesus Christ, God the Son, who He is and what He came to do.

The Bible reveals God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ that “as many as receive him gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name,” John 1:12.

The Bible reveals that God has a plan for each of our lives and it reveals how to find that plan; how find that “perfect, acceptable, and reasonable will of God.”

And that brings me to the last idea or thought today!

Thirdly, you cannot be a godly mother or a godly father or a godly woman or man without total surrender to God.

Now you can be saved and not serve God.

There is such a thing as a carnal Christian!

You can be saved and not surrender your will to Him but I believe that if you are truly saved there is Something inside of you, in fact, it is the Holy Spirit, that is urging you to surrender yourself fully and wholly to Jesus.

But let me give you a couple of admonitions – maybe we should call them warnings.

First, the Holy Spirit can be grieved.

Ephesians 4:30 instructs us to “grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

You know, I really like the way the New King James puts this, not that there is anything wrong with the Old King James Version.

The NKJV says, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed FOR the day of redemption.”

Well what does the word “for” mean?

Most likely it means “because of the day of redemption,” like it means in Acts 2:38 “because of the remission of sins.”

You and I should not grieve God’s Holy Spirit, which indwells us, the Spirit of Christ, “because” there is coming a day of redemption when our redeemed souls and spirits will be united with our glorified bodies.

Well, what is it that grieves the Holy Spirit?

If you look back at verse 29 and forward to verse 31, Paul gives us a clue as to what it takes to grieve the Holy Spirit!

To put it in one word – it is SIN!

Look at Ephesians 4:29 and 4:31:

29) "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, (boy, that's got some of us right there), but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

31) "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

Why? It is because it grieves the Holy Spirit.

Well what doesn't grieve the Holy Spirit, verse 32?

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

Do you know anybody who fits verses 29 and 31? If you do, they are grieving the Holy Spirit.

Think about all that God has forgiven you before you begin to speak evil about someone else.

Then secondly, not only can the Holy Spirit be grieved but He can also be quenched.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "Quench not the Spirit."

What do we think of when we hear the word "quench?"

Usually, we think of fire.

The Holy Spirit is often likened to fire.

Acts 2:3 says, "And there appeared (speaking of the Holy Spirit) unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."

You understand that this is a simile.

The words "like as" tell us that it was a simile.

A simile is a symbol; it is a figure of speech.

Acts 2 is the "empowering or the enabling of the Church of Jesus Christ."

In Matthew 16, the church was established.

In Acts 2, the church was empowered.

In Ephesians 6, the church was equipped.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, the church will one day be exalted.

What this means then and what this is a reference to is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, which like fire, can be quenched.

The Spirit is quenched whenever His ministry is stifled in an individual or in the church as a whole.

You cannot be a godly mother or a godly father or a godly woman or man without total surrender to God.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

2) "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

What does it take to be a godly mother?

What does it take to be a godly father?

It takes a close, personal relationship with Christ Jesus our Lord.

It takes delving into the Inspired, Inerrant, Infallible, and Indestructible Word of the Living God.

It takes total surrender to God.

If our world ever needed anything today, it needs godly mothers and godly fathers.

Let's bow for prayer!