**3 Amazing Moms of the Bible**

R Giglio 5/12/19

**The widow of Zarephath, Naomi, & Eunice**

**A single Mom, A mother-in-law and a Grandmother**

**First, Why Mother’s Day?** *A National Holiday since 1914 (105 yrs)*

**The Bible tell us to honor Moms.**

EPH 6: **2**“Honor your father and **mother**.” This is the first commandment with a promise: **3**If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

*(From Exodus 20:12 and Deut. 5:16)*

*We are obviously not all Mothers, but we all have or have had a mother. It’s the way that God used to bring us into this world. Some of us had wonderful relationships with their Mom, Others had not-so-good relationships with them, either way we are instructed to “Honor” them by the Lord and we are given a promise of blessing if we do.*

*Honoring them may mean showing honor to those that are with us here and now, or honoring their memory in our hearts and our words for those who have gone on. (Sometimes this requires forgiveness and/or working through unpleasant memories by God’s grace.) Either way, the word clearly tells us to “honor” them.*

*Regardless of who you are, or how old or young you are, how famous and successful you’ve become, or not…, your MOTHER is probably the single most, if not “one of the most” significant influence of anyone in your life.*

*This is the person that God chose to bring you into this world, and in most cases the one who has shaped you in your most formidable years.*

*“*My Mom’s story*, according to My Mother’s Long-lost cousin [Emily Story]:*

* *Birth mother died of pneumonia before her first birthday.*
* *Grandfather married right away – (Arranged Jewish marriage)*
* *They swore to keep the truth about her mom a secret*
* *She found out the truth through a relative when she was 15 years old!*
* *My Mom’s world was shattered. The woman she thought was her Mother was not her mother, and this woman she thought was just a kind old lady was her grandmother.*
* *Her life was never the same. She rebelled, ran away from home, and spent the rest of her teen years reacting to the trauma of the confusion she felt regarding the Mother in her life.*

Motherhood is very very powerful. It can have either the most discouraging OR the most empowering effects on us.

Many great, successful, famous men and women in history give much of the credit of their success to their Moms:

***George Washington:*** *“all I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.”*

***Abraham Lincoln****: ““I remember my mother’s prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.”*

***Billy Graham*  “**Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children.”

Many Presidents and leaders quote their Moms when in important decisions and liofe moments.

“The hand that rocks the cradle Is the hand that rules the world”

All moms are special but,

“A mother who has great faith in God, is able to give her children the most precious gift that they will ever receive.”

**Three Amazing Moms of the Bible**

**Eunice, Naomi and the Widow of Zarephath**

1. **The Widow at Zarephath (a single Mom)**

1 Kings 17:8-24

**8**Then the Lord said to Elijah, **9**“Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”

**10**So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” **11**As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.”

**12**But she said, “I swear by the Lord your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.”

**13**But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. **14**For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!”

**15**So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. **16**There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

**NOT ON SLIDE:**

***(17****Some time later the woman’s son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died.****18****Then she said to Elijah, “O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?”*

***19****But Elijah replied, “Give me your son.” And he took the child’s body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed.****20****Then Elijah cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?”*

***21****And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, please let this child’s life return to him.”****22****The Lord heard Elijah’s prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived!****23****Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. “Look!” he said. “****Your son is alive!”***

***24****Then the woman told Elijah, “Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you.”)*

This un-named woman, a single mom, was not even a Hebrew, but she believed in Elijah’s God and put her faith in Him. God rewarded her, not only with food in the famine, but raised her son from the dead after he died of a terminal illness.

Jesus was very impressed with this woman and talked about her in Luke 4, to the people in his home town of Nazereth as an example of faith.

There are times, Moms when the greatest thing you can do for your children is not “preserve and protect” your children by your own resources, (as tempting as it may be) but put your faith completely in God and trust in **His resources** for you and your family.

1. **NAOMI (A Mother-in-Law)**

Ruth 1:**1**In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. **2**The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

**3**Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. **4**The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, **5**both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Naomi and Ruth Return

**6**Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. **7**With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

**8**But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. **9**May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

**10**“No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.”

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**14**And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. *(Incidentally, this is who Oprah Winfrey’s was named after, it’s her real first name, but it was mispronounced so much she kept Oprah as a stage name)*

 But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. **15**“Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.”

**16**But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. **17**Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” **18**When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

(in other words, she brought her along)

Usually we read this story and focus on Ruth, who like the Widow of Zarephath was not a Hebrew but showed great faith in the Hebrew God of her mother-in-law Naomi.

Naomi is a great example of a Mom who in the face of tremendous grief and loss, reached out to a younger woman to comfort, counsel and care for. She took Ruth with her back to Bethlehem and guided her into a life where she was not only provided for, but when on to Marry, have a son and become the great grandmother of King David. That also puts her in the line of the genealogy of Jesus as well.

Moms, ( or Moms-in-law) sometimes the Lord will use your influence in the lives of younger women to lead them and guide them to the path that Lord has for them. You may also be a recipient of the blessings of God in their lives.

(Titus tells us: “Let the Older women teach the younger…”)

1. **Lois: (Timothy’s Grandmother)**

Lois was the Jewish-Believer in Lystra who was the grandmother of Timothy. From what we read in Acts, it appears that Timothy’s father was a non-believer (described only as Greek) and had little or nothing to do with Timothy’s spiritual foundation. His mother Eunice on the other hand was commended by Paul, along with Lois on their spiritual influence on young Timothy’s faith. It all began however through Lois’s faith.

**Acts 16:1**Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.

***2 Timothy 1:5*** *I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

**Lois *and* Eunice**

This reminds us that a mother *and/or Grandmother* can have great influence on a family.

Timothy had the benefit of being taught faith of God by his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois).

Lois was able to make a difference in teaching Timothy as a boy, eventually he would grow up to be one of the primary leaders of the early Church and a faithful companion and coworker to Paul. Her influence effected her entire family which she passed along to Timothy, which effected the entire world.

She and her daughter did this in spite of having a household where the Dad/Husband was most likely an unbeliever.

At the very end of his life, when Paul was in the prison at Rome awaiting trial and likely execution, he writes his second letter Timothy:

(Written just weeks, maybe days before Paul’s death):

**2 Tim 3:** **14**But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. **15**You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

As Moms, *you* have a special position in the family, whether your children are still very small, older, or grown with children of their own. Your words, your influence and your teaching has a powerful impact on the lives off your family.

**We all need the love of a mother**…, many of our Mom’s have passed on into glory. Some are not in our lives. But we still need their love.

We can find this, and every kind of love we need through Jesus.

(1st John 4:8 “God is love”).



Jesus as a “mother”? Yes

Jesus himself shows the love of a mother:

Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.

Jesus longs to nurture us, feed us and protect us in a way only a mother can*.*

 *“I’ve longed to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings”*

**Experience his love today whether you are a Mom, have a mom or just need a mother’s love.**