

## Life Link

**Title:** "Moms Make a Difference"

### Introductory Illustration: WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

- My mother taught me RELIGION: When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out of the carpet."
- My mother taught me LOGIC: From her decisive words, "Because I said so, that's why."
- My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
- My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about."
- My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."
- My mother taught me about WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."
- My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
- My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"
- My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a wonderful Mom like you do!"

THANKS, MOM!

A University of Minnesota study on Motherhood said moms should get \$131,000 a year for what they do! When you add together all the different jobs they do it becomes obvious how valuable mothers are in our lives. Some reports say mothers do 17 different jobs while raising their children: Here are some examples: psychologist, social worker, doctor, nurse, executive chef, teacher, police officer, judge, counselor, manager, dish washer, maid, financial manager, etc. One researcher stated, "Of course, no one can place a value on the love and affection that mothers give to their families." But it shows what they are worth far more than a 3 figure salary and their love and service to their families is "Priceless".

### Read Sermon Text:

**Proverbs 31:10-31** (The Virtuous Wife) Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.

15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. 20 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of

idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates. NKJV

## 1. Mom's Work is Never Done (vs. 10-18)

**Proverbs 31:10-18** Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. NKJV

- a. **Salmon ask in verse 10, he asked** " Who can find a virtuous wife?". The word "virtuous (OT:2428) " in the Hebrew conveys idea of a force of men an army who could be described as an army of valor and or strength. This word is used to describe a wife who is dedicated to caring for her family. She strength of character goes far and above the call of duty. If she would be awarded many metals in recognition of her service to her husband and family.
- i. (OT:2428) probably a force, whether of men, means or other resources; an army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength:
  - ii. KJV - able, activity, (+)army, band of men (soldiers), company, (great) forces, goods, host, might, power, riches, strength, strong, substance, train, (+)valiant (-ly), valour, virtuous (-ly), war, worthy (-ily) (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

The book of Ruth is described as a woman with these qualities. The Bible describes Ruth as a "woman of noble character." It carries the meaning of being capable. Proverbs 31:10 The word for noble character is translated "capable" in Ex 18:21. The question who can find? (cf. Prov 20:6) does not suggest that such women are nonexistent but that they should be admired because they, like noble men, are rare. Also they are more valuable than rubies (cf. a similar statement about wisdom in 8:11). (from Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament Copyright © 1983, 2000 Cook Communications Ministries; Bible Knowledge Commentary/New Testament Copyright © 1983, 2000 Cook Communications Ministries. All rights reserved.)

- b. The husband is list three (3) qualities of his wife, verse 11 expresses his (1) confidence and absolute (2) trust in this his wife, her ability to (3) manage the household well which results in his lack for nothing.
- c. This kind of woman is an asset to all who are around her and especially to her family. Her diligences meet the needs of the entire family. She does the shopping, she cares for the children, she plants the garden and collects the produce, and she is kind and loving to her maidservants. It is said that a man works from sun to sun but the woman's work is never done.

**Text Illustration: MOTHER - Job Description**

POSITION TITLE Mom, Mama, Mommy, Mother

**JOB DESCRIPTION :** Candidates must be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed.

**RESPONSIBILITIES :** Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute and an embarrassment the next. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

**POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION :** Virtually none. You will remain in the same position for years, without complaining.

**WAGES AND COMPENSATION :** You pay those under your care and offer them frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left.

Note: This job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right. SOURCE: Rick Duncan in "Seven Wonders of a Woman's World" on [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com).

**2. Mom's Generosity Has No Limit (vs. 19-20)**

**Proverbs 31:19-20** She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. NKJV

- a. This woman is selfless and full of charity as she reaches out to those who have need, when she see someone who is sick she cares for them, when she see someone who is hungry she feeds them, when she see those who are in need of clothes she gives them clothes from the work of her own hand. Not just pass own old and worn out clothing but she provides from her own labors by making garments for them.

**Text Illustration:** A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their mom with a houseplant. They had used their own money to buy it and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet at the flower shop that we wanted to give you. It was real pretty but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest.

**3. Mom's Qualities Are Know By All (vs. 23-31)**

**Proverbs 31:23-31** Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. 26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed Her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates. NKJV

- a. Verse 23 describes the recognition her husband receives as a result of his wife when he is out conducting business at the gate of the city. Not only does she provide a positive reflection upon her husband but she is a shrewd business woman she make her crafts and turns them into a profit for her family.
- b. The writer of list the qualities of this mother and wife, he describes her strength and honor, she is known for her wisdom and her words are nothing but kindness. She is always vigilant over her over all the affairs of the household and family. Her reputation extends far beyond the walls of her home and family and she is known for her industrious attitudes.
- c. In the final analyst her children, husband and her family praise her. But, even more important she loves and fears the Lord. She brings honor and praise and will be know by all who know her and her reputation will leave a legacy that will endure.

### **Text Illustration:** WHAT IS A MOTHER?

Somewhere between the youthful energy of a teenager and the golden years of a woman's life, there lives a marvelous and loving person known as "Mother."

- **A mother is** a curious mixture of patience, kindness, understanding, discipline, industriousness, purity and love.
- **A mother** can be at one and the same time, both "lovelorn counselor" to a heartsick daughter, and "head soccer coach" to an athletic son.
- **A mother** can sew the tiniest stitch in the material for that dainty prom dress and she is equally experienced in threading through the heaviest traffic with a station wagon or van.
- **A mother is** the only creature on earth who can cry when she's happy, laugh when she's heartbroken, and work when she's feeling ill.
- **A mother is** as gentle as a lamb and as strong as a giant. Only a mother can appear so weak and helpless and yet be the same one who puts the fruit jar cover on so tightly even Dad can't get it off.
- **A mother is** a picture of helplessness when Dad is near, and a marvel of resourcefulness when she's all alone.
- **A mother** has the angelic voice of a member in the celestial choir as she sings Brahm's lullaby to a babe held tight in her arms; yet this same voice can dwarf the sound of an amplifier when she call her boys in for supper, or cheers them on at a game. A mother has the fascinating ability to be almost everywhere at once and she alone can somehow squeeze and enormous amount of living into an average day.
- **A mother is** "old fashioned" to her teenager; just "Mom" to her third-grader; and simple "Mama" to little two-year old sister.

But there is hardly a thrill in life that can compete to pointing to that wonderful woman and be able to say to all the world, "That's my mother!"