

Sunday Morning Message

May 14, 2017

Mom the Builder (A Mother's Day Message)

Text – Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 31:10 - 31

Congregational Reading – Proverbs 31:10 - 31

Introduction

Our congregational reading this morning from Proverbs 31 deals with the virtuous woman. We are not exactly sure who this woman was, but many believe that she was Solomon's mother, Bathsheba. If that be true, then it means that God took a woman who had previously made a huge mistake and turned her into this virtuous woman.

Regardless of the actual identity of this woman, we can see very plainly from the text that this woman was a great lady. She was a faithful and loving wife to her husband; she was a productive and busy citizen, and a good friend to her neighbors; and, on top of that, she was an awesome mother to her children.

She built a great home. One that was the admiration of everyone that saw it. She was the type of lady that had her act together. All of the other ladies, and men, in the community admired her and what she had built.

Turn to Proverbs 14:1

Notice the contrast here in Proverbs 14:1. We have a home builder, and a home wrecker. The wise woman builds. She sees nothing but potential in her marriage and children. She takes the materials that were given to her by God and she uses them to put together and strengthen a family that is pleasing to the Lord and beneficial to the community. She takes the blueprint of the Word of God and sees the final product of a well-maintained home and a godly heritage. Her children are that heritage.

Illustrate – Danny converted our den in South Toms River into a beautiful master bedroom. He designed the plan and in it, he had cathedral ceilings with a "plant shelf" that went all around the room at about the eight-foot height on every wall. He put in recessed lighting facing upward, indirectly, shining light onto the ceiling. When Danny explained to me what he was going to do, I could not envision it. But he could see it. He had the final product in his mind throughout the whole process. Every stroke of his hammer, and every cut with his saw pointed toward that final beautiful product.

When Danny was working on this project, for a while he became consumed with it. He worked on it every day, long into the night. He was not concerned about his own

pleasure or comfort. Because he had a vision of building something, and he wasn't going to stop until it was finished.

A wise woman is much like a builder. Everything she does, and every word she says points to the final product of building a home and raising godly children. She cares very little about her own comfort. She will stay up late taking care of her home and family. She is not at all concerned about her own happiness, but rather she receives great joy in building up her home, her family.

Then there is the home wrecker. A home wrecker does not use the same tools as the home builder, and does not have the same goal. The home wrecker plucks down her husband and children with selfishness, pettiness, and laziness. She seeks her own pleasure rather than the welfare of her home. Somewhere in the recesses of her mind, she remembers a plan, a vision for a good marriage and a godly home, but she kept making decisions and taking actions that worked to pluck down, instead of building up. She made statements like, "I deserve to be happy". She puts herself first over God and her family. She lives at the center of her world. It's all about her.

Moms – are you a home builder or a home wrecker?

I think if you were to be completely honest with yourself, you would probably have to conclude that at times, you have been both. We cannot erase the mistakes of yesterday, but we can build a better tomorrow.

Transition

In this important business of home building there must be three ingredients if you are going to be successful:

I There Must Be a Partnership

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" (Psalm 127:1a)

A The Lord Must Be the Senior Partner.

If the Lord is with you as you build, you will have an omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent always there with you, on the job, who never calls out sick, and who never makes the wrong call.

If the Lord is with you, then He can correct the mistakes that you make.

- 1 You must confer with Him constantly through prayer. He is the architect and engineer. He can get you through any difficulty. He can provide all of the necessary materials.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:18)

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Pray for wisdom:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

Pray for strength

Pray for your family's protection

Pray for your husband and children

- 2 You must consult and study the blueprints often. The Bible is your blueprint for building a godly home.

Paul reminded Timothy of his godly mother's (and grandmother's) instruction:

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:14-16)

B You Must Be the Junior Partner

You need to yield to God's Will, God's Word, and God's Spirit – even if it doesn't seem to make sense.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You need to be yoked together with God – working with Him to produce the desired outcome – a godly home and family.

There Must Be a Partnership

II There Must Be a Plan

A There Must Be Edifying

The word, "build" means to frame, construct, and raise; to unite materials into a regular structure; to raise anything on a support or foundation.

The word, "edify", in Scripture, means to increase and strengthen; to cement and knit together; to settle or establish and preserve.

We are commanded as Christians to edify one another:

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." (Romans 14:19)

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

The best place to begin edifying is your home.

A wife needs to edify her husband. A mom needs to edify her children.

Building and edifying work together to produce a strong structure.

Great care must be taken in the building and edifying of a home. Short-cuts or shoddy material will produce a structure that will not stand when the storms of life come.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27)

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:" (Proverbs 24:3)

The opposite of building up is tearing down.

Mom's there are some things that will not edify your family, that will actually tear down your home.

Friends that you become closer to than you are to your husband.

Personal interests that become more important to you than your children – career, hobbies, etc.

Sometimes our words will tear down. Harsh words; nagging and non-constructive criticism; strife – these will all tear down your home and family.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29)

"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. ... It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." (Proverbs 21:9, 19)

"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." (Proverbs 27:15)

Mom's, you need to edify your home.

B There Must Be Encouragement

The word, "encourage" means to give confidence or inspire.

"But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it." (Deuteronomy 1:38)

God used Moses to encourage Joshua to fulfil the will of God.

You must see yourself what your kids can be, and you must inspire them to be all that they can be for the glory of God.

God has great plans for your family. Encourage them to fulfil God's will.

Illustrate – A young Henry Ford was encouraged by a much older Thomas Edison. Ford showed Edison a crude sketch of a motor car, and Edison banged his fist on a table and said, "Young man, that's the thing. You have it!" Ford later recalled, "The thump of Edison's fist on the table was worth worlds to me."

We dads (and moms too) often discourage our children.

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." (Colossians 3:21)

Let's start encouraging them. Let's compliment and reward them when they do right, and let's compassionately, carefully, and constructively correct them when they do wrong.

C There Must Be Exhortation

To exhort means to incite to good deeds.

Exhortation looks to the future, where comfort deals more with the past.

Wives, your words of exhortation to your husband may cause him to finally follow God's will for your family. Don't be negative.

Mom, your words of exhortation to your children may propel them to achieve great things for the Lord.

Illustrate – Robert Moffat, the great Scottish missionary to Africa, was encouraged by his mother's kiss and words of exhortation every day, when she said, "Begin your day with God and close your day with God". Moffat stated that it was that kiss and those words that came with it that made him a missionary.

Dads, you may be the head of the home, but moms, you are the heart of the home.

Conclusion

Remember moms, as you build your home – you have a Partner – a Senior Partner

And also, be careful to follow the Plan – Edify, Encourage, and Exhort your home to be all that it can be for the glory of God.

Illustrate – Susannah Wesley

Susannah Wesley was married at age 19 to Samuel Wesley, a minister, and had 19 children. Samuel was often gone for church meetings and revivals, so she assumed the primary load in raising the children. Two of her sons are well-known to us today: John and Charles Wesley. John launched the Methodist movement, and Charles was a celebrated composer and hymn-writer. You would recognize some of his music such as “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” and “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.”

Susannah Wesley spent time each day praying for her 19 children. She also took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. She also expected each child to be able to read the Book of Genesis by the time he or she was 6-years child.

Here are her famous 16 rules of raising children:

1. Eating between meals not allowed.
2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 p.m.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. Subdue self-will in a child, and those working together with God to save the child's soul.
5. To teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during family worship.
7. Give them nothing that they cry for and only that when asked for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Comment and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to fear the rod.