

The Influence of a Godly Mother

2 Kings 4: 1-7

Today has been set aside to honor the mothers across our land. There is certainly something special about a mother. I am blessed to have a godly mother in my life. As a child growing up, we saw our share of adversity, but mother's faith never wavered. Her faith in Christ exceeded the difficulties of a broken home. She was a constant in those trying times.

Now God has blessed me with a family of my own. Many of the characteristics I so appreciate in my mother, I now see in my wife. She fulfills many duties within our home and accomplishes each of them with grace and love. The value of a godly mother can never be expressed. [Prov.31:10 – Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.](#) If you have been blessed with a godly mother, (and a godly wife), you are blessed beyond measure. A mother instills something in her children that cannot be described; it is beyond words.

Our society desperately needs the influence and molding of godly mothers, those who are settled in Christ, strong in the faith, and loyal to the family. Our text reveals such a woman. She had compassion and commitment that is worth reflecting upon. I want to examine the [characteristics](#) of this mother as we consider: [The Influence of a Godly Mother](#). May they make us thankful, as well as, challenge us.

I. A Mother's Allegiance (1) – [Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.](#) It is important that we understand the circumstances surrounding this woman. She was married to a “[son of the prophets of Elisha](#).” Her husband was a man of God, but he had died, leaving her with debt and two sons to raise on her own. Life, at one time was good, but now she faced great uncertainty. It would've been easy to have thrown up her hands and said, “What's the use; God has forsaken me!” There is nothing in the text to indicate such an attitude. Instead she remains loyal; her allegiance is strong. That allegiance is twofold:

A. Her Faith – Her husband was a man of God. She knew the ways of the Lord. He had lived a life of service unto God, but for some reason, God chose to call him home. Many would've grown bitter toward God. Why have you allowed this to happen to me? At a time when I needed him the most, you've taken him from me! Lord, I didn't deserve this. We were doing our best to live for you. This mother doesn't grow bitter toward God; in fact, she turns to God. She found Elisha and seeks his wisdom for her problem.

- A mother of influence will remain true to her faith. Life will have its share of heartache and pain, but I thank God for those mothers who remain committed unto the Lord! Our children need to see that steadfastness in our lives. They need mothers who will turn to God in the difficult times.

B. Her Family (1b) – *and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.* She also remained loyal to her family. It was the custom of that day, when a debt was owed and couldn't be paid, one's children could be taken as slaves to "workout" the debt.

- It would've been easy to given in to this situation. She clearly didn't have the money to pay the debt, and likely was struggling to keep food on the table. This mother refused to give up on her children. She didn't know how, but there had to be a way to keep her sons from bondage.
- We need mothers who are concerned about the bondage of their children. We need to hold our children up to God that they might be saved. Cry out to the Lord on behalf of your children! Don't be satisfied if they are in the bondage of sin. Life doesn't have to be lived that way. Jesus has already paid the debt of sin! We need to do as mothers of old and "cry out" to God until they are saved!

II. A Mother's Substance (2) – *And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil.* No doubt these were desperate times. As she comes to Elisha, he asks to important questions: what did she need and what did she have? As we consider this desperate widow, it would seem that she didn't have much, just a little pot of oil, about enough for one anointing.

- Well, maybe she didn't have much, but she had God! She didn't have the wealth and riches of this world, but she had a Lord who knew her situation and was well able to meet her need.
- Listen, it's not all the wealth and substance of this world that our families need; we need God. We need God more than anything else. You may not even own the home in which you live, but if God dwells there with you, you are rich today! We seem to have gotten this thing all out of sort. Our children don't need all the things that we think are so important, iPods, cell phones, and designer clothes. Those things will wear out and decay. What they need is mothers, fathers, families, and friends that will live a life of genuine substance before them!
- She maybe didn't have much, but she had God. She had a love for her family that was greater than the debt they owed. Oh, how I thank God for the substance I received as a child. I often wore "hand-me-downs" and ate a supper of whatever we had, but we had God! Those are the things that have helped make me what I am today.

- If you can't give them anything else, give them some things of substance, things that will last for eternity! I don't want my girls to remember all the material things we gave them, but the love that we shared and the relationships we built with them and our Lord.

III. A Mother's Obedience (3-5) – Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, *even empty vessels; borrow not a few.* ^[4] And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. ^[5] So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured out. Remember things were desperate, the debt had to be paid or the sons became bond slaves. Elisha instructed her to gather all the pots she could find and pour the oil into them. We know she had faith because she sought the Lord's guidance, but now it was time to act upon that faith. She didn't have much, but she knew she needed more of what she had.

- It is likely that she was a bit apprehensive at first, probably wondering just how far the oil would go. Can you imagine how she must've felt as she filled the first pot and began to pour into the second one? That little pot of oil had filled a larger pot and now was filling another one! Imagine the joy as the pots continued to fill and yet there was oil remaining in the little pot. All of this would've never been possible had she not been obedient to the Lord.
- Would you agree with me that we need those who will be obedient unto the Lord? He may be ready to fill some pots at your house if you'll only trust Him and act in faith! Lord I can't do much, but I'm going to do what I can with what you've given me. We need those who aren't satisfied with giving in to the difficulties of life, but are willing to be obedient to the Lord.
- Just keep pouring out of the pot of oil that you have. You never know how many lives could be eternally changed by your obedience to God. Mothers, just keep pouring out of that pot of patience, love, service unto God, and commitment to your family!

IV. A Mother's Abundance (6) – And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.* Notice what a difference a little faith made in the life of a family that was about to be torn apart. They had filled every pot they could find. A day that started out with gloom and despair had ended in abundance and rejoicing! A mother that was loyal to her family, gave what she had in obedience to God and that resulted in a great abundance.

- Mothers I want to take a moment to encourage you. You may feel at times that your life has been of little significance, but nothing could be further from the truth. As long as you give of what God has given you, I assure you there will be an abundance of blessing. You have a wonderful

opportunity to enrich the lives of those within your family. A godly mother of influence will fill many lives with love and joy. You have far more to give than you realize. The love that a mother gives is certainly an abundant blessing that God has allowed you to share with others!

V. A Mother's Remembrance (7) – *Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.* She sold enough of the oil to pay the debt and there remained enough to sustain the family. Those two sons may have forgotten much about their childhood, but I guarantee you they never forgot the day they poured the oil. On that day, she allowed her sons to see her faith in the Lord. A caring mother made a lasting impact on the lives of two young men.

- Your labor and loving care may go unrecognized and without gratitude at times, but it is never forgotten. We could all share about the love our mothers have given to us. I am still blessed to have my mother, but I will never forget what she has done for me. She made me go to church even when I didn't want to. It is there I learned about Jesus. I remember the times she would teach me about the Lord and encourage me to live for Him. These are the things I'll never forget.
- Let me encourage you to live for the Lord in front of your children. Make sure you know Him as your Savior. Death causes a brief separation, but for the saved, there will be a great reunion day.

Conclusion: The influence of one godly woman made an immediate and lasting impact on her family. They likely had heard her speak of faith, and now they had witnessed her faith. She had placed her faith and trust in the Lord.

Our society needs those who will live out their faith before others. Christ loved us enough to bear our sin on the cross and He is more than able to meet our needs. If you are unsaved, He stands ready to save. If you are struggling or discouraged, He stands ready to help. Seek Him today as He leads.

Maybe your mother is here, or someone who has been very special to you. Why not go to them and tell them what they mean to you?