

## A MOTHER'S ADVICE

By Pastor Gordon

**Introduction:** Mother's Day is always a special occasion at Mt. Carmel Prayer Chapel because we structure the service to thank God for the precious gift of motherhood, as well as to show appreciation to the mothers, grandmothers, and those women who have a parental role in a child's life. Everyone that falls in that category are deserving of respect, support, cooperation, and understanding because of the many sacrifices you have made on behalf of young people. It is not surprising that mothers and fathers have high goals for their children. But mothers are special because they never lose focus and their dream of seeing their children fulfilling their God-given destiny. Mothers want their children to be smart, successful, and heading in the right direction in their journey to adulthood. Mothers are generally the first to recognize the unique talents, skills, and abilities of a child even while they are very young. Those abilities were placed in that child by Almighty God because they will need those abilities to reach their ultimate destiny. It is not surprising that God will give mothers a glimpse of that child's future, as well as their potential to achieve great things. However, it is up to the child to aim, hunger, and thirst for greatness, or to reject the dream that God had inspired in a mother's heart. The Lord does give mothers deep spiritual insight into the lives of their children which is why they understand their nature, personality, and thinking. But understand that those insights mothers have were developed by spending a great deal of time talking, training, encouraging, and singing to that child. Mothers spend quality time giving advice to their children to avoid certain mistakes that will hinder their success in life. The mothers present here have done their best to train their children to live right,

follow Jesus, care for the least fortunate, and to treat others with respect. Mothers understand those are the character traits that will help them to fulfill God's exciting plan for their life. We want all the children to remain in the service today because God has a message for you that He wants you to hear so that you can better understand the heart of your mother and what drives her to pour so much into you. Today you will hear about a mother who is speaking to her son, heart-to-heart. She is providing her son some important lifesaving nuggets of truth for the purpose of keeping him in good standing with God and with men. Before we turn to our scripture verses, I want to give you a brief background about this biblical passage. In the verses we will be reading, you will hear this mother talking with her son, who is destined to be a future king. Her mother has a pet name for her son by calling him Lemuel. It should not be surprising to any of you about a special name that you will hear your mother call you. Some mothers will refer to their children as, "my beloved," "princess," "professor," and so on so that the children understand that they are loved, they are special, unique, and wonderful. Historians have argued about the identity of this future king the mother was talking to. There are some biblical scholars that believe this future king was Salomon, the son of King David. If that is the case, the mother would have been Queen Bathsheba. Mothers, I would encourage you to continue relating to your child with those terms of endearment as a way of expressing your deep, intimate feeling about them so that they know they are accepted, they belong, and they are wanted. If we are to agree with the theologians, Bathsheba had selected the pet name, "Lemuel" for her son Solomon. The name, "Lemuel" means "devoted to God." By giving him that biblical name, Bathsheba was also expressing her faith in God to direct the path of that child, to protect him, and to fulfill his plan in the life of that child. But more than just giving him that name, Bathsheba

was pronouncing blessing on that child by the wise advice she was giving him about serving the Lord. Now, let's turn to our bible in the book of Proverbs, Chapter 31, looking at verses 1-9.

**Sermon text:** Proverbs 31:1-9, *“The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy*

**Message:** Before starting out with the important message the Lord has in store for us today, let me point out that those of you who have mothers that knows how to reach God and are actively praying for you are extremely blessed. Prayers do make a major difference in the outcome of a situation. Many children are alive today because of a praying mother who pleaded with the Lord on your behalf when you were facing a serious situation. A mom knows how to reach the very heart of God, and as a result, can change the outcome of a situation by her prayers. Many children may not realize, nor appreciate the many tears their mother have shed before God to rescue their children from the grip of the enemy so that they do not become a victim. Lemuel's mother started the conversation by asking her son an important question in order to make him think beyond the present. It is so easy to focus on the here and now, instead of looking at the big

picture. She asked Lemuel, “What are you doing?” You have to read between the line to understand exactly what she was asking Lemuel. Basically, she was asking Lemuel if he had given any thought into the type of king he was going to be. Another word, she was asking Lemuel whether he was taking his future seriously and taking steps to fulfill God’s great plan for his life. Lemuel was destined for greatness, but it could be thrown away if he did not take into consideration that his action today will either help him to achieve the plan of God for his life or he could ruin his future by living for the present and ignoring his future. Her question was designed to get him to reflect on that important point. She wanted him to think about what he was going to do with the power, authority and responsibility God had in store for him. Children, mothers today are still asking the same question today. What will you do with the life God has given to you? Are you going to waste this precious gift by living for today and forget the bigger picture about the greatness that is in you, or will you use the time allotted to you in this earth wisely to make her proud of you? Are you going to throw it all away? She went on to remind Lemuel that he was the fruit of her womb. Another word, there is a special bond between them that makes them inseparable. They are bound together for life because of that special bond. A bond between a mother and a child is something that father’s find difficult to understand. It is that bond that will cause a mother to sacrifice her life for that child. It is that bond that will cause her to stick by her children even when they’ve been condemned to death row. That mother will be there to the dying breath of that child. Father’s may give up on a wayward child a long time ago, but that special bond will cause her to trust, believe, hope, care and love that child till death do them part. She will fight for that child, support that child, defend that child, and forgive that child a thousand times because of that special love imparted by God into her heart for the

child of her womb. Mothers are bold, courageous, and fearless. Children, people will tell you things that you want to hear, but mothers will speak truth to you because she is driven by love and could care less about being politically correct. It takes boldness and courage to speak truth, but don't worry. It is God that has endowed her with that boldness and insight into your life. She is not afraid of being out of favor with you because her ultimate goal is the salvation of your soul and your ability to reach your potential. She will speak truth to your life so that she can help you, protect you, intervene on your behalf and spare you from future heartaches if possible. She will speak truth to you because she cares. She will tell you things you may not want to hear because if she keeps quiet, she knows the enemy will get an upper hand in your life. That is why mothers are not afraid to tackle the difficult topics that will make you blush or cause you to want to run out of the room. Lemuel's mother got right to the point when she started talking about that uncomfortable topic of choosing a life's mate. She told him flat out that if he does not use wisdom in choosing a mate, his life could take a downward turn away from God. Choosing a mate who loves God should be one of the highest priorities for consideration. A person who loves God, fears God, and worship God will think twice about mistreating you because they know they are accountable to the Lord. This mother did not shy away from addressing other important topics. She started to talk to him about allowing substance abuse to take control of his life. She had enough wisdom to understand that his judgement can be impaired as a result of addictions. As a result of the control of substance abuse, he could easily compromise on what is right and honorable before God. Worse yet, substance abuse has the power to separate him from the God that he once loved. As a king, as a leader, and as someone destined for greatness, Lemuel could easily cast all of that aside in favor of seeking the pleasure

and satisfaction that come from substance abuse. A king who could not tame his appetite would be a king who could not rule justly, honestly, and with integrity. Substance abuse could result in this promise child cursing the name of God because of its grip and control over him. Lemuel could easily forsake his relationship with the Lord of his life because of the controlling power of demonic lures placed in his path. There was a young prince whose kingdom was conquered by an evil enemy. The prince was captured, placed in a room, and told that he was free to leave anytime he wanted. However, the conquering king knew that the young prince had a love affair for fine food and drink and could not resist. The conquering king ordered his staff to deliver to the room the best of food and drink every day. This went on for a long time where the young prince gorged himself with everything that was given to him. Eventually, the prince made up his mind to take the king's offer to leave. By that time, the prince had gotten so fat he could not fit through the door. He became a prisoner of his own appetite. We can easily fall into that same trap. This mother was giving advice to Lemuel not to allow his sensual desires for substance abuse derail his future. Worse yet, it would prevent him from being a good king by mistreating the very people he was destined to rule, protect, defend, and support. Bathsheba was impressing on Salomon that in order to be a good king, he had to have a sober mind by refusing to become addicted to the pleasures of the things of the world. This mother's parting advice to Lemuel was to remind him about his duty as a leader. Salomon was supposed to protect the weak, fight injustice, take care of the poor, and to be a voice for those who cannot fend for themselves against powerful opponents. There are the elderly who are helpless and need support. There are the homeless who cannot seek the help of congress. There are the widows who have no means to care for themselves financially. There are children that have been

abandoned with no one to care for them. That mother was telling Lemuel that he was supposed to be a part of the solution and not to be an oppressor. That was only possible if he took her advice instead of ignoring what she had to say.

**CONCLUSION:** What is the point that the Lord wants to get across in this sermon? God has a divine purpose for your life. All of you were destined for greatness in different fields. The Lord has endowed you with specific talents, abilities, and gifts that were showered on you because those character traits would serve you well in your life's journey destined for greatness. However, you and I will determine whether the plan of God for our lives get fulfilled or discarded along the way. God has placed special people into our lives to mentor, coach, guide and help us to make wise decisions about our future. Mothers are God's special gifts to children to help guide them to maturity and to help them reach their destiny of greatness in their respective field. Mother's will not be politically correct when they talk to you because they are looking out for your soul. A friend and acquaintance will tell you what you want to hear and to make you feel good. Mothers will tell you the truth because their goal is to help you have a rich future that is honorable before God. A mother's goal is not to make you feel good. Not everyone can handle the truth. It is our prayers that you will benefit from this wonderful gift God has put in your life. It is important to listen to her counsel to serve God, as well as to take care of those whom God will be assigning to your care and leadership. The best way to honor your mom is to embrace your greatness and fulfill your destiny. That is only possible if you partner with God by serving him.

To the mothers here and those serving in that role as grandmothers, nurturers, godparents, and guardians, the Lord want you to know that the sacrifices you have made on behalf of your children are not in vain. The Lord will do his part to support you, help you, and be with you through all the challenges you will be facing as a mother. You cannot do it on your own. Trust the Lord to come through by helping you to raise your precious child that will emerge as a giant in the faith. Your child will end up fulfilling their destiny because they listened to your wise counsel. Do not be weary in well doing. Continue to pour into their lives no matter how old they are.

Fathers, I would encourage you to backup and support your wife. The children will learn to honor and respect their mother by copying you. She has a very difficult role to fulfill, and she needs your encouragement, affirmation, backing, and respect.

Children, God has a special promise made to you. If you honor your parents by respecting them, you will have a long life. If you mistreat your mother, God will resist. You want the Lord to be on your side since that is the only way to achieve and maintain greatness in your life's journey. Be wise by first serving the Lord, stay away from those things that will destroy your life, maintain friends with those who have lofty goals like yourself, and accept the wise counsel of your mom. She is God's gift to you to help you along the way. At this time, I would like for every child to come forward to bless your mom by letting her know how much you love and appreciate her. Please don't say this out of obligation but do it from the heart.

**PRAYERS FOR MOTHERS:** Heavenly Father, I thank you for the message you have given that was designed to encourage mothers to stay the course and to know that they are not alone. Bless these women by endowing them with courage to speak truth, patience to endure the

difficult challenges of motherhood, love to lavish on their children, wisdom to impart to the fruits of their womb, and joy by seeing the fruit of their sacrifices. None of those mothers are perfect Lord, and I thank you for your abiding grace that will help them to overcome any mistakes and the strength to continue to faithfully execute their divine role as mothers. We ask these things in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.