

Text: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25

Title: "Lessons from the Mom of All Mothers"

Time: Sunday 5/10/2020

Place: NBBC

Introduction: Mother's Day is a day for remembering what our mothers mean to us, and I suppose that no one has a greater appreciation for the value of their mothers than those who are themselves mothers.

During the Nazi occupation of Poland in WW2, the Germans constructed a death camp at Treblinka, about 80 miles outside of Warsaw. A young Polish woman named Irena Sendler rescued 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto before they could be exterminated in that horrible place. Those rescued painfully lost mothers and obtained new mothers.

Perhaps like no other generation mankind has ever known, these two sets of mothers taught the world what a mother's love truly is. Though cruelly beaten at one point by the Nazis, Irena Sendler survived the war and lived to be 98 years old. From her uniquely informed perspective, she would ask on Mother's Day that the legacy of these WW2 mothers be remembered.

Well, the Bible is clear that God desires that every mom who has ever lived take some time to remember the legacy of the same good mother that they all share. Her name was Eve, and the Bible begins with her story. Today, the daughters of Eve live in a time when many of them are forgetting the example of their first mother. Many of the Polish Jewish children saved in the 1940's from Treblinka grew up not knowing their first mother. Well, in a similar sense, our world has grown up to forget their first mother, Eve.

With evolution's false claim to scientific expertise, a claim that was at the root of the Nazi's eugenics doctrine, the life of Eve has been relegated to the irrelevant category of myth and fairy tale. In her stead stands a sub-human ancestor of some kind whom we have to share with apes, chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans.

At the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, there is no exhibit on Eve in their section on the history of human origins. For those of you who have studied the prevailing views of the science of human origins far more than I have, I would commend a recent article to you called, "Human Chromosome 2 Fusion Never Happened," by Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins in the May 2020 issue of *Acts & Facts* (ICR).

We creationists who believe our Bibles can still profit from the example of our first mother, and I want us to do that this morning. It seems that now more than ever we need moms who understand and live the "lessons we learn from the mom of all moms." I want us to notice two of these.

I. The life of Eve teaches us that mothers are an important part of God's design for a happy home (Gen. 1:26-28).

Application: The life of Eve teaches us that mothers are an important part of God's design for a happy home. It is good and proper that we celebrate a Mother's Day to honor their God-given role in our homes. Not one of us would be here today were it not for the fact that we had a mother. The life of a mom is the life of loving sacrifice for her offspring. Their love is much like that of our Lord.

Illustration: One of the things Maureen and I have noticed about sending a son off to college is that college administrators these days are very concerned about parents who can

be overly protective of their children. When it comes to moms, *mother hen* is the term that was once used for an overprotective mom. More recently, the same issue is called the problem of the *helicopter mom*.

Application: Jesus does not call a mother's love a nuisance. Instead, He identifies specifically with that love comparing Himself to a mother hen: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37). Christ knows what mothering wayward children is like. To respond to this saving love as though He were a nuisance is to make the most fundamental mistake anyone can make, one with eternal consequence.

Beginning in 2009, of course, our state law has solemnized the kind of marriage that creates the kind of home that no longer includes a wife or mother. When then Governor John Lynch passed that law, he issued a press release that defined the fundamental issue as affording same-sex couples the same rights and protections heterosexual couples are afforded.

The problem with defining the fundamental issue in those terms, however, is that it fundamentally undermines the basis of human rights known to our founding fathers. Our founding documents are clear that our unalienable rights come from our Creator, not man's opinions and decisions.

James Madison, remembered as the Father of the US Constitution, explained unalienable rights this way in his "Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments, 1785": "This right [religious freedom] is in its nature an unaliena-

ble right. It is unalienable, because the opinions of men, depending only on the evidence contemplated by their own minds cannot follow the dictates of other men: It is unalienable also, because what is here a right towards men, is a duty towards the Creator. It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage and such only as he believes to be acceptable to Him. This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society. Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe.”

What makes our human rights protectable as unalienable in a civil society is the fundamental truth that they come from our Creator, not man. When we lose sight of the Creator and begin to define our rights as having come only from the mind of man, we are left with ideas no longer unalienable.

The life of Eve teaches us a fundamental truth about the Creator’s design for the home. Mothers are an important part of God’s design for a happy home.

II. The life of Eve teaches us that mothers are an important part of God’s design for a happy dad (Gen. 2:18-25).

Illustration: The Hobi family celebrates Mother’s Day this year with the happy news that a new generation of Hobis has begun. My nephew’s wife, Alyssa, gave birth to Boaz Jack Hobi last month. The days that healthy babies are born are truly wonderful days in the life of a mother.

Application: I am sure that Eve celebrated those days of childbirth. She recognized that her offspring were precious gifts from the Lord (Gen. 4:1, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord”).

But had you asked Eve about which day was the best day of her life, I think Eve would have said, “The day God gave me to Adam.” Though mankind remembers Eve primarily as the mother of all the living, she would have probably told us that she wanted to be known first as Adam’s wife.

Genesis does not call her *mother*. Instead, she was called *woman* because she was made for the man (Gen. 2:21-25). Though wondrously equipped for giving birth and for serving the ministry of motherhood, Eve was first designed to be Adam’s wife. This was her primary calling.

My nephew and his wife now have an addition to their home, but they have been blessed with their Christian home since that day I saw them both say “I do” in Alyssa’s home church in Ohio. God created their home on that day, not the day of the birth of their child. Eve’s example as a mother teaches us that any mother’s ministry is a ministry first to her husband in the bonds of holy matrimony, whether or not that home is blessed with children.

Illustration: Quote from Mike Goldfus, father of seven, SS Teacher: “My kids are just visiting; my wife is my home.”

This husband-directed ministry is summed up with a single word in verses 18 and 20, *helper*. I want us to think about some characteristics of Eve’s role as Adam’s helper.

A. The helper role is an equal role; it is different from the husband’s role but not inferior to it. Note two evidences of this from some details in this passage.

1. The first has to do with why God made Eve. God is correcting Adam’s loneliness here, not the fact that his socks may have needed to be washed (v. 18, “it is not good for man to be alone”; vv. 22-23). God created a companion for

Adam, not a servant. Note also that God gave them dominion, made them in his image, and blessed them, both male and female together (1:26-28). They are equal partners in this plan of God for His creation.

1 Peter 3:7, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and *as being heirs together of the grace of God*; that your prayers be not hindered.” We know from Scripture that Peter had a mother-in-law and so was married, Roman Catholic dogma notwithstanding (Matt. 8:14; see even the Douay-Rheims Bible and New American Bible Revised Edition). He undoubtedly writes here from experience. How a man treats his wife is an important aspect of his character. Is she a partner or an inferior? The helper role is an equal role; it is different but not inferior. We must beware the man who fails to understand this in his marriage. God will not hear his hypocritical prayers.

2. Only two entities are legitimately labeled man’s *helper* in the OT: Yahweh God and wives. Similar to the analogy from Paul that Christ is like the husband and the church is like a wife, the use of the term *‘ezer* to describe the wife here presents the analogy that a wife is in some important sense like Yahweh, while God’s people are very much like Adam.

Note the praise of Yahweh’s strength and majesty as a helper in Deut. 33:26-29. The role of the helper in the OT is never the role of an inferior or subordinate. It is the role of someone whose strengths complement and compensate for our weaknesses. As husbands, we need to recognize the dependence we have on the help of our wives, and the glory of the strength and majesty of their role as our God-given helper, fully capable of compensating for our weaknesses.

The helper role is an equal role; it is different but not inferior. Secondly, let's note some of those differences.

B. The helper role is a specific role; it involves clear responsibilities. This term *helper* indicates that wives need to be like the Lord our help in specific ways.

1. Wives need to defend their husbands, not attack them. Defense from enemies is closely connected to the kind of help this word *helper* refers to (Exod. 18:4, Deut. 33:7, Ps. 22:19, 33:20, 70:5, 121:1-2, 124:8). Every husband has three enemies that seek his destruction – his sinful heart, a dangerous world, and a relentless devil. With all that attacking a man, God has provided a helper for his spiritual defense. Wives need to make sure that they are on the right side of this equation, that they are helping to defend their husband from these enemies, not being used as a tool of the attack.

2. Wives need to honor their husbands, not shame them (Ps. 89:19-24). Exaltation and honor are closely connected to this kind of help. In Biblical idiom, this help (v. 19) “exalts the horn” (v. 24). It has been said that a husband's greatest need is loving honor, and that a wife's greatest need is loving security. We see that certainly in this word *helper*.

We also see it in the truth that our marriages are to be pictures of Christ and His church. Christ provides the church with loving security; the church provides Christ with loving honor. We have seen that husbands ought to give honor to their wives as unto the weaker vessel. Well, wives ought to give honor to their husbands as unto the stronger vessel.

3. Wives need to love faithfully their husbands, not betray them (Ps. 146:5-9). Trustworthiness, kindness, encouragement, love, support – all are a part of the help of a helper.

Application: Prov. 14:1, “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” That wisdom begins with marital love. The destruction of the plucking down begins with marital betrayal. A wife foolishly destroys whenever she refuses to be the trustworthy, kind, encouraging, loving, and supporting helper. These are the tools God has give her to build with.

Conclusion: Perhaps the greatest lesson we can learn from the life of the mom of all moms is that we, her children, need a Savior just like she did. Eve was the first human being to sin and to need salvation, and she is the first to receive the promise of a sufficient Savior (Gen. 3:15). Eve’s promised descendant is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Mother Hen who would lovingly gather her chicks under her wings. Will you be gathered? Will you turn from your sin and come to Him for the sacrificing love that saves?

“A man came – I think it was actually in Philadelphia – on one occasion to the great George Whitefield and asked if he might print his sermons. Whitefield gave this reply; he said, ‘Well, I have no inherent objection, if you like, but you will never be able to put on the printed page the lightning and the thunder.’ That is the distinction – the sermon, and the ‘lightning and the thunder.’ To Whitefield this was of very great importance, and it should be of very great importance to all preachers, as I hope to show. You can put the sermon into print, but not the lightning and the thunder. That comes into the act of preaching and cannot be conveyed by cold print. Indeed it almost baffles the descriptive powers of the best reporters.”

– David Martin Lloyd-Jones,

*Preachers and Preaching*