

The Voice of Prophecy
Box 55
Los Angeles, California

56 - E - 20
May 13, 1956

BEHOLD THY MOTHER!

Among the seven final sayings of Jesus upon the cross, were these words: "Behold thy mother!" John 19 : 27. Solemn and holy words they are, spoken from the bruised lips of Christ dying on the cross for the sins of the world, to His dear disciple and apostle John. One of the most heart-touching descriptions of this scene which I have ever read is found in that great modern commentary on the life of Christ entitled The Desire of Ages, by Ellen G. White. From this we now quote two unforgettable paragraphs:

"As the eyes of Jesus wandered over the multitude about Him, one figure arrested His attention. At the foot of the cross stood His mother, supported by the disciple John. She could not endure to remain away from her Son; and John, knowing that the end was near, had brought her again to the cross. In His dying hour, Christ remembered His mother.

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Desire
of Ages
p. 752
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Calif.

Looking into her grief-stricken face and then upon John, He said to her, 'Woman, behold thy son!' then to John, 'Behold thy mother!' John understood Christ's words, and accepted the trust. He at once took Mary to his home, and from that hour cared for her tenderly. O pitiful, loving Saviour; amid all His physical pain and mental anguish, He had a thoughtful care for His mother! He had no money with which to provide for her comfort; but He was enshrined in the heart of John, and He gave His mother to him as a precious legacy. Thus He provided for her that which she most needed, -- the tender sympathy of one who loved her because she loved Jesus. And in receiving her as a sacred trust, John was receiving a great blessing. She was a constant reminder of his beloved Master.

"The perfect example of Christ's filial love shines forth with undimmed luster from the mist of ages. _____

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For nearly thirty years Jesus by His daily toil had helped bear the burdens of the home. And now, even in His last agony, He remembers to provide for His sorrowing, widowed mother. The same spirit will be seen in every disciple of our Lord. Those who follow Christ will feel that it is a part of their religion to respect and provide for their parents. From the heart where His love is cherished, father and mother will never fail of receiving thoughtful care and tender sympathy."

--Page 752.

Here ends the beautiful quotation. Our Saviour honored His mother, loved her, and made provision for her. Here we can learn by example; yes, and by command, "Behold thy mother!" Look at her, think of what she has done for you. Think of what Mother means to each of us. No one is perfect in this life, but surely every mother has a right to the love, care, interest, and faithfulness of her children.

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Usually Mother is with the children more than Father, for he is away from home a good deal of the day, and sometimes for many days together, as mine had to be in his service for God and humanity. So the mother is the first teacher. To her, every child can say, "I owe my life." Personally, I can say that to Mother I owe my understanding of, and belief and comfort in, God. My first recollection of music was Mother's voice singing the songs of Zion. Her kind, sweet, comforting voice enriched my life. Truly of her it could be said, "In her tongue is the law of kindness." Proverbs 31 : 26.

I can truly say that I owe my reverence of womanhood to my mother. Chiefly to Mother also I owe my moral convictions. It was her teachings of right and wrong which first impressed me;

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and later, of course, the influence and teachings of Father; and later still of Christian ministers and the Holy Bible.

Mother's whispered ambitions for me to be a servant of God and a proclaimer of His gospel changed the whole bent of my life. In times of temptation and trial, the memory of Mother's face often kept me steady and in school and willing to plod along a little farther. Mother's wise praise, along with wise criticism, while others merely scoffed, although not always maliciously, strengthened my determination and courage. Some, taking advantage of my sensitiveness, which they did not understand, hurt me cruelly; but she bound up the wounds with her tender commendation and encouragement.

How much I owe to Mother's prayers, only eternity can tell and only God knows. But I know that Mother's prayers have guided me my whole life through.

7
Don't you think it would be better to leave this out?

12

For that which is finest and most beautiful and noble and spiritual in my life, I thank my brave, faithful, kind, prayerful, never-discouraged, God-fearing mother. She made it possible for Father to keep the home going through days, months, and years of meager income and constant moving from place to place with practically no furniture. With a few wooden boxes, a few tin cans, a little cheap cloth, hammer and nails, and her artistic temperament, Mother could make a home almost anywhere. She kept out of the limelight and encouraged Father and all of us in the work and service of God.

I remember one Christmas when Father was away from home and Mother had only fifteen cents in cash, but we had a wonderful Christmas -- some apples, a little popcorn, several pieces of candy, a little bush or branch we found serving as a tree, two or three little candles, but lots of enthusiasm, imagination, kindness, and love.

When Mother has done so much for us, and we owe so much to her, why should we not pay our tribute to her, and do it now while we can? Those of us who still have our mothers ought to let them know how we feel about them. It is Mother's great reward when --

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31 : 28.

I am sure that my brother, who also is a church worker today, will agree with me that Mother's praying with us when we were little, as we knelt at the bedside together before we went to sleep, had a great influence on our lives. To hear his name in Mother's prayers is a privilege that every child ought to have. Mother, do you pray with your children? Do they hear you mention their names in prayer? _____

Quartet -
"My Name
in Mother's
Prayer"

2:23

10

Do you teach them to pray? Are you the first preacher they ever hear, preaching from the pulpit of Mother's love, which is the highest pulpit in the world? Don't neglect it if you have the opportunity.

Since most of the time we had no home of our own and lived in rented quarters and moved from here to there wherever Father held evangelistic meetings, we spent many happy months with our grandparents. There in the old white farmhouse near Lake Loveland, Colorado, my brother and I would go to bed soon after sunset. Then Mother would come upstairs and pray with us and tuck us into bed. That was the high point in our religious history.

It always seems so good to me
When Mother prays.
Sometimes I cry and cannot see
When Mother prays.
The angels come down -- oh, so close
That I can touch them, seems almost!
And inside I get warm with joy;
I'm sorry then I took Bill's toy.
I want to be a better boy
When Mother prays.

The ear of Heaven bendeth low
When Mother prays,
And I am better then, I know,
When Mother prays.
The disappointments of the way,
The worry of the toilsome day,
The fretfulness and longing cease;
Heaven breathes my troubled soul to peace,
And love and trust in God increase
When Mother prays."

--H.M.S.R.

Not only in teaching us our Sabbath school lessons, but in reading the Bible, Mother had a tremendous influence over us. She loved the Bible, and that made us love it too. Any book that Mother loved like that must be wonderful! And we found that it was wonderful. She memorized great sections of it -- in fact, today in her age, she can repeat many entire books of the Bible, and she is continually learning more. So, by her example and at her urging, we began to learn the words of the Great Book long before we could read them.



What a privilege it is for children to learn the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and other passages of Scripture early in life; and then more and more of the Mighty Book, until later on in the hard places of life, the testings, the trials, the storm and the tempest, the sunshine and the rain, these precious passages return and grow more beautiful as pearls do when worn near the heart. As Henry van Dyke said,

"Beside the cradle and above the grave
Its great words come uncalled."

Why is this treasure ours? Because Mother buried it in our hearts. Almost all men and women who have accomplished much owe more to their mothers than the world ever hears about. It was so of Abraham Lincoln, yet he testified to the influence of his godly mother. When he was only nine years of age, he promised her on her deathbed that he would never use alcohol or tobacco.

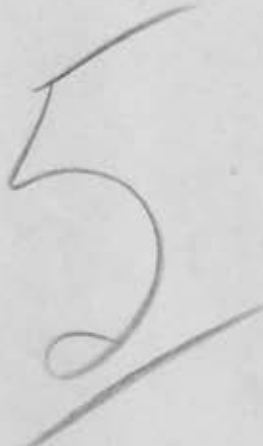
She had seen the effects of these poisons upon others and was determined that her son should not use them. Had it not been for Lincoln's promise to his mother, his whole life might have been entirely different. She taught him the meaning of prayer, she encouraged him to read the Bible and helped him to memorize much of it.

There is a beautiful story about Lincoln ~~and his mother~~ as told by his friend, Captain Gilbert J. Greene, in the Signs of the Times, America's prophetic weekly, for May 4, 1954. It runs as follows: "One day, while practicing law in Springfield, Mr. Lincoln said to me, 'Gilbert, there is a woman dangerously ill about fifteen miles in the country who has sent for me to come and write her will. I should like to have you go with me.' I cheerfully accepted the invitation.

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When we arrived we could see that the woman had but a few hours to live. After the will had been written, witnessed, and signed, the dying woman said to Mr. Lincoln, 'Now I have my affairs of this world in order, and I have also made preparation for the life to come, I do not fear death.'

"Mr. Lincoln replied, 'Your faith is wise and strong. Your hope of a future life is a blessed one.' She asked him then if he would read a few verses from the Bible. They offered him the Book, but he laid it aside and began reciting from memory the twenty-third psalm. Then he quoted the first part of the fourteenth chapter of John: 'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'



"After he had given these and other quotations from the Bible, he recited several hymns, closing with 'Rock of Ages, cleft for me.' A little later the woman passed away. As we rode home in the buggy, I expressed surprise that he should have acted as pastor as well as attorney so perfectly, and he replied, 'God and eternity are very near us today.'"

Lincoln once declared, "All that I have and all that I am, I owe to my mother." His mother taught him lessons of patience and integrity.

Of the parents of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, it is said:

"And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."

Luke 1 : 6.

And of his mother, it was said that she "was filled with the Holy Ghost." Luke 1 : 41. No wonder, then, that it could be written of her son: _____

"He shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."

Verse 15.

When mothers are really filled with the Holy Spirit, the children are apt to be likewise.

Of our Saviour, we read that "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4 : 4) that the prophecy of Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6, might be fulfilled:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

God sought the virgin Mary and through an angel voice said:

"Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. . . .

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Luke 1 : 30, 31, 38.

Later, when Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, saw the virgin Mary, she said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

"Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

Verses 45 - 47.

To this godly young woman the Christ Child was born, and God entrusted to her His earthly training. Without the blessed virgin Mary, there could have been no Saviour of men. At last when the judgment is set and the books have been opened,

and the nations are gathered before the white throne, when the eternal Judge Himself has pronounced the "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and the crown of immortal glory is placed on the brow of the victors, many will raise their crowns before the unnumbered multitudes and, pointing to their mother, will say: "Through the grace of God, she made me all that I am. Her prayers, her instruction, her unfailing love, have been blessed to my eternal salvation."

Every mother is a painter, a poet, a sculptor, a builder.

But, as someone has said of his mother:

No masterpiece you painted on ceilings high in Rome,
But both your boys remember you lived one in your home.
You penned no epic poem that critics might call art,
But with a grander vision, you wrote one in your heart.
You carved no Parian marble in sculptured Greek design,
But with your loving fingers you shaped this life of mine.
You built no white cathedrals by echoed footsteps trod,
But in simple faith you made our home a house of God.
Not the hand of Raphael or Michelangelo
Could paint Mother as she is -- only her children know.

--H.M.S.R.

And so we say with the words of our Saviour, "Behold thy mother!"

Solo - Wayne

"My Mother's Face"

1:30

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY

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Box 55
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56-E-20
May 13, 1956

QUARTET: Theme: "Jesus Is Coming Again." Followed by. . (45 sec.)

QUARTET: Humming -- Up, then hold under.

IVERSEN: This is The Voice of Prophecy -- a voice crying in the wilderness of these modern days: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

QUARTET: Up and out.

IVERSEN: From our Voice of Prophecy studios in Los Angeles, California, we welcome you to this half-hour of inspiration and music transcribed with the King's Heralds, Del Delker, Brad Eraley, and H. M. S. Richards, the Voice of Prophecy speaker.

ORGAN: Organ Introduction.

QUARTET: "Gleams of the Golden Morning." 1:25

ORGAN: Chimes.

RICHARDS: Prayer.

QUARTET: "Near to the Heart of God." -- Up, then hold under.

RICHARDS: "O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee
Near to the heart of God."

QUARTET: Amen. Up and out.

IVERSEN: To observe this special day set aside in many lands to honor our mothers, we have a new book for you, A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER, prepared at the request of hundreds of our listeners. This unusual book written by our speaker, H. H. S. Richards, contains the stories of many Bible mothers, as well as some of his boyhood experiences with his own mother. Appropriate poetry will be found interspersed.

During today's sermon, which is included in the book, you will hear the poem, "When Mother Prays," together with our speaker's most recent poem, "The Masterpiece." And, by special request, here is Mr. Richards to bring you again "When My Mother Tucks Me In."

RICHARDS: (Poem)

"When My Mother Tucks Me In."

IVERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Richards. This poem also will be included in this month's book offer, A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER. You may request a copy for your own enjoyment by writing to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California. The title of that book again -- A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER; and the address -- The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California.

As you write, remember this broadcast is dedicated to preaching Christ by radio and teaching Christ through our free Bible Correspondence course. Invite a friend to tune in to The Voice of Prophecy next week.

IVERSEN: (cont'd) Let us, on this Mother's Day, recall with Del Delker and the King's Heralds "The Sweet Old Songs I Heard My Mother Sing."

5 PART: "The Sweet Old Songs." 2:13

IVERSEN: Here now is H. M. S. Richards, the Voice of Prophecy speaker. His subject: "Behold Thy Mother!"

RICHARDS:

Talk: "Behold Thy Mother!"

QUARTET:(During sermon)

"My Name in Mother's Prayer,"

7

2:23

5-15

QUARTET:(Last song) "Sweetest Mother."

IVERSEN: One of the finest things we can do on Mother's Day is to assure Mother of a way by which her family can become one with God. Letters which we receive from mothers often bring marvelous stories of answered prayer, and tell how, through the Faith Bible Correspondence Course offered by this broadcast, a son or a daughter has been won to Christ. That is why today we are especially inviting you to enroll in this Bible study course that has been so popular for so many years. Many families study together and invite friends and neighbors to join them in the discussions suggested by the 40 lessons covering a wide range of Bible topics. You may have the Faith Bible Course coming your

IVERSEN: (cont'd)

way by writing to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California.

In your letter, be sure to include your name and address and a request to be enrolled in the Faith Bible Course. It is our gift to you. It will be sent by mail, lesson by lesson, until you have completed the course and received your diploma. Our large teaching staff at The Voice of Prophecy Bible School headquarters not only corrects your test sheets but also answers individual questions to help you understand your Bible. Your request for enrollment, your Bible, and a pen or pencil are all that is required. For this welcome addition to the spiritual life of your family, mail your request today to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California.

Let us take hold of the Master's hand, looking up, always going FORWARD IN FAITH!

RICHARDS:

Have faith in God -- And love one another;
Have faith in God -- Father, sister, brother;
Have faith in God -- So behold thy mother!
Have faith, dear friend, in God.

HMSR

We hope this transcribed program has served to give you spiritual strength for the coming week. Now -- we invite you to join us next week -- at this same time -- for another broadcast brought to you by The Voice of Prophecy.

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not
pro - gram!*

Mare

RICHARDS:

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
The Lord make His face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace."

-- Numbers 6:24-26.

QUARTET:

Amen. Up and out.

ORGAN:

Up and fill to close.