

Gifts, for Moms & from Moms, on Mother's Day **1 Peter 2:18-3:7**

After reading our passage this morning, you may be thinking "Did I miss the part about moms?" What gifts are being given & received here in 1 Peter 2?

This passage may not speak directly about mothers, but **the message of this passage speaks volumes to moms & to those who have them in their lives!**

Verse 18 starts off by addressing "servants/slaves", meaning those who work for, or under the authority of, a master. Scripture on slavery!

For us today, **this text has great application for how employees are to respond to their employers/supervisors in the work place! Vs. 18**

However, **the root of this Greek word for servants, "oiketai", means house.** Therefore, the intended audience are those who are under authority in a household – servants/slaves, but children too would fit into this category!

The status of a child, within a household in Israel in the first century (as well as earlier), **was little more than that of property.**

It's why you don't hear much being addressed directly to children in the Scriptures besides **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right."**

One simple command, but one of such importance that **God included it in His top 10 list!** God's calling upon children was to honor, respect & obey those God had made an authority over them – their parents (moms)!

Moms... what would be the best gift you could receive on Mother's Day? **Wouldn't it be the obedience, respect & honor given by your children?**

Children... as those placed under the authority of your parents by God, give your mom this gift this year, **it's the best gift you can give on any budget!**

You see, this passage does speak to mothers, and to their children, because children are the "oiketai" in the home today & moms are the masters!

So a rereading of vs. 18 could be, **"Children, be subject to your mother with all respect... not only to the good & gentle but also to the unjust."**

It's here that we see the challenge/struggle for some in celebrating this day. **Not all moms are easy to love, honor & respect!** Moms are broken people too! How are we to give good gifts to moms who we would say are underserving?

Can we, as children, keep God's commandment when our mother's fail to be the moms they are called to be under God? **The answer is "Yes!"** Why?

Because of God's grace, & because of the example of Jesus Christ! **Vs. 19-23**

Grace and Christ can make honoring the most broken mothers possible!

But this doesn't mean we remain in abusive or God dishonoring situations!

Honoring/obeying God always takes priority over obeying earthly authorities!

And in cases of abuse, get help so that they too can get help!

But what another great gift that can be given to our moms - **to love, forgive, & extend grace to them in the midst of their imperfections & failures!**

And to you moms who realize that you have failed your children in certain ways, and have brought about unjust pain & suffering in their lives?

Here is another gift for you today from God – Vs 24-25!

How is that for gifts for moms on this Mother's Day?

But Peter doesn't stop there. He offers a gift that moms can give to their families as well, a gift that will outlive the giver! **1 Peter 3:1-6 (the Message)**

Ladies, being a Godly wife is not only a precious gift to your husband, but also a gift to your children as well. **What better gift can you give as a mom to your children than to love their father well** & set an example for them to follow?

What a gift for children to see in their mother, an inner beauty that far surpasses that of outer beauty! Ladies/moms, **"cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in."** This is what I admire most in my mother!

When a mom gives these gifts to her family, lives are often changed!

Husbands are captivated by it, and children are shaped & molded by it!

And husbands, don't think your off the hook here. Listen to Peter's words to you, **Vs. 7 - "Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."**

On this Mother's Day, **we all have the opportunity to give good gifts!** If each one of us focuses on the part we are to play in honoring God within the family, the more the parts of the family will be honored as well!

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