

MOTHER'S DAY

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, Massachusetts
May 9, 1965

Scripture – Luke 10

Introduction:

On Mother's Day, it has been my custom to bring to the attention of the congregations of which I have been pastor the necessity to see the total life of our homes in the context of the Christian faith. I intend to follow the same pattern today.

There is no doubt in my mind about the significance and importance of the mother in every home. However, motherhood functions in context. This context is the home – the mother, the children and the father. Furthermore, from our point of view, the home does not merely function in a biological, sociological or economic context. The religious atmosphere and spiritual dimension that enters into the shaping of our homes is to the Christian church of paramount importance. To make myself clear, the home that proclaims to be a Christian home must function under the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ. No statement that I know expresses better the Lordship of Christ in the home than:

“Jesus is supreme in this home, the unseen guest at our table,
the silent hearer of our conversation.”

Let us consider each phrase in turn.

I. Jesus is supreme in our home.

- A. The fundamental decision to enter marriage was made before God the Father and Christ the Lord. The bride and the bridegroom promise to love each other:
- for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer,
 - in sickness and in health,
 - to love and to cherish until death do us part,
according to God's holy ordinance.

Our liberty is thus limited. I have a partner to work with, to love, to procreate a family with. I cannot think of myself alone. Really a home is the end of self-centeredness. The bride and the groom commit each other to the lordship of Christ. Ex. how Peter Marshall got a wife.

- B. The fundamental decision to use money. Christ is the Lord here.
- example of don Varo.
 - example of David Cruz López.

Use your money first in what is essential, and then think of luxuries.

C. How to use our free time – use of radio, TV. Creative use of time when there is not much work to do to earn a living: -- poetry, -- writing, -- painting
Christ is supreme here.

D. How do we receive children? Are they a burden or are they gifts of God? *“Let the little children come unto me and do not hinder them.”*

II. The unseen guest at our table.

A. Christ and the daily bread:

-- was hungry;

-- taught us to pray for our daily bread.

Thanksgiving Day

B. Our daily bread is a gift from God. Christ is, also. The abundance of America is a token of God’s grace.

III. Christ the silent hearer of our conversation

A. The tongue can start a large fire.

B. Let conversation be honorable. *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*
This cannot be done unless Christ is the unseen guest in our homes.

Conclusion:

Motherhood functions in the context of the Lordship of Christ.

Lincoln Park 5-9-65 LFM

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Invocation:

O God, who art real to those who come to Thee in trust; increase our faith, that feeling toward thee as children, we may trust where we cannot see, and hope where all seems doubtful, ever looking to Thee as our Father who orders all things well, and patiently doing the work Thou hast given us to do, according to the word of thy Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...

Prayer for mothers:

Father of life, fold in the everlasting arms of thy love the mothers of the race. As they struggle up the steps of motherhood, through its travail of mind, body and soul, give them thy guiding wisdom and thine empowering grace. Grant them the compensation of love returned and understood, the satisfaction of knowing that they have lifted those entrusted to their care in helpful harmony with thy kingdom.

Grant the ever-steadying power of thy support through the daily discouragements, the readjustment of ideals, and the anguish of bereavement that come into all mothers' lives.

Increase, we pray, their cheerful steadfastness, their unselfish strength, and at the close of their day, may they find rest and peace with faith undimmed and unafraid. We ask through Christ, our Lord.

Offertory prayer

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation nor shadow due to change.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the many and wonderful blessings that we receive from thee daily in our lives – for food, for our homes, for this nation of ours, for the beauty of the spring. We would, O Lord, express our gratitude to Thee through these offerings. Use them to the glory of thy name in the service of the needy both of the body and of the spirit.