



James 1:19-27 Hearing and Doing the Word Pt 2 A Mother's Magnificent Mindset!

May 10, 2015

Happy Mother's Day!!

It was a moderate if slightly chilly evening in Landover, Maryland. The year was 1979-1980ish. Mama and I were home. Dad was there too. I don't remember what set him off. I just remember Mama said something he didn't approve of, and in his drunken rage, he threw her on the bed and began to hit her with his fists...wild haymaker type punches...almost like he was playing with her. As strong as he was she was defenseless. I stood there, 10 or 11...helpless.

And yet, I remember her strength. During a break in the abuse, she got us out of the house and down the street to a neighbor's home where the police were called. She was barefooted as we ran. I'll never forget trying to keep up with her and looking at her feet. She was barefooted.

I have lots of little boy memories. Walking with her in a store, holding her hand, seeing other men see her and thinking, "Sucka I'll crack you in yo eye." ☺ Every little boy wants to protect his mother...

I remember her turning the tables on me in my teen years with girls I was interested in, telling me later how she prayed, "Lord, don't let him marry some no good do-nothing." :)

I remember, when I was older my mommy having to move my sister and herself to an apartment, because Dad, in another binge of alcohol and drugs, had our home so filled with violence and perversion it was just time to go. I was older then...on my own in college, itching for a fight. I could have taken him. I wanted to...future naval career possibly ruined...but she stopped me. "Get your education" she said. "Succeed." "Be a godly man."

I still recall how she just kept going. Kept working. Kept forgiving...truly forgiving, as she did move back home with Dad eventually. I remember she still laughed and liked to joke around, still loved him, and as he got older and sicker, how she cared for him despite all the years of torment and evil treatment.

Even today, she mourns his passing. I do too. And my sister. He was a changed man the last decade of his life and I loved him dearly despite it all. But one thing I do rejoice over was the kind of mother she was and is to us. Perfect? No. But she gave it her all. She kept us in church and around the preaching of the word. She was and is faithful and loyal to Christ, singing and playing His worship. She remains submitted to the church...the same church we all grew up in. And of course, she stayed with Daddy until he died, at his side, caring for him day after day after day...

Thank you, Mommy, for who you are and all you did. And thank you, Lord Christ, for Sandra Gwenalda Frazier...my Mommy and the first woman I ever loved.

Saints, I wrote this last Tuesday night as I began thinking about all my mother did for my sister and I. I also got to thinking about all CRCC has gone through with women's issues during the last year, and the subtle accusation that we are somehow anti-woman. As I think about how much I love my wife, mother, daughters, sister, and the precious ladies of this church, and the context of my upbringing...few accusations hurt me more than that.

I. Am. A. Momma's. Boy. A proud one too! Much of my life is geared around honoring and protecting women and children...including teaching biblical manhood properly. :) For a loooong time, my mother and sister were all I felt I had. God brought Donna into my life 26 years ago and she has my undying love, devotion, and protection until death do us part.

Forgive me for using myself as an example, but I just wanted you to know again the sort of heart that teaches here. We love Christ, His Gospel, and all the precious things He has to say about women and the beauty of their roles. There is no chauvinism or sexism. There is simply a desire to see Christ's work and Word implemented in our lives that **He might be glorified in our worship**, and that **fewer and fewer women and children ever have to go through what my family did or worse.**

I just wanted you...again...on this wonderful **Mother's Day**...to know our heart.

Two Texts Today:

- James 1:19-27
- John 2:1-12

John 2:1-12: A Mother's Magnificent Mindset!

1. Many of you are familiar with this wonderful narrative. The "first of his signs," our merciful Lord demonstrated great love and care towards His mother, fulfilling her request to keep the wedding participants from being embarrassed by running out of wine.
2. Some people look at verse 4 with concern as if Jesus disrespected His mother by calling her "Woman." Nothing could be further from the truth! **Womanhood** is beautiful! It has only taken on a negative connotation in our time!

Gen 2:18-25 ESV Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (19) Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. (20) The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. (21) So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (22) And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of Man." (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (25) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

3. Because of His love for His mother, Jesus agreed to her unstated request. You know what happened...He changed water into wine. But our focus is on Mary's **attitude** in verse five: "Do whatever he tells you." I love this!
4. Contextually, it was a simple admonition to those servants handling the water and wine. But to me, it speaks to Mary's **mindset**...the mindset of godly women and mothers everywhere...the mindset of every Bible-believing Christian...obey the Lord Jesus! ☺
5. Mary knew something about obeying God when it got hard....
 - a. *Luk 1:31-38 ESV* And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the

house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (34) And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. (36) And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. (37) For nothing will be impossible with God." (38) **And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.**

- b. A GREAT scandal in her day (a betrothed virgin pregnant!!!), she nevertheless humbly obeyed her Lord. Out of her obedience, the Savior was born.
 - c. Just a quick question: what is hindering your obedience?
6. This way of thinking...this **perspective**...is magnificent! To be in the place of "do whatever He tells you" or "let it be to me according to your word" is how we defeat the self-deception of "hearing" but not "doing!"
 7. The question is, "**How do we get there?**"

Developing the Magnificent Mindset

We said last week that whether we want to admit it or not, we often fight the goodness of God as revealed in the Scriptures; we bristle at the commands of the Lord; we hesitate to be obedient...as if somehow we think that God's Word isn't good! This has been the struggle of man from the beginning. God's Word to Adam and Eve concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was **GOOD**: don't eat its fruit or you will surely die! (Gen 1:17) So one way we develop this mindset is to know that...

1. God's Word is **good**!
 - *Rom 15:4-6 ESV* For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (5) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (6) that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The Word of God is **Inspired**! This means that the Bible is God-breathed.
 - *2Ti 3:16-17 ESV* All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.
 - <https://carm.org/bible-inspired>
 - The Word of God is **Inerrant**! This means that, in the original autographs, the Bible is perfect...a reflection of Its Author.
 - *Psa 19:7-9 ESV* The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; (8) the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; (9) the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
 - <http://www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-inerrancy.html>
 - The Word of God is **Infallible**! This means Scripture is incapable of error.
 - *2Pe 1:19-21 ESV* And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (20) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture

comes from someone's own interpretation. (21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

➤ <http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-infallible.html>

- The Word of God is **Sufficient!** Taken together, this means the Bible is our rule for faith and practice.
 - Our Text in James can begin to help us here too....
2. Be **quick** to hear! (Jam 1:19)
 - This is part of a mindset that wants to do the will of the Lord: “Be ready to listen!”
 - How many times do we read our Lord saying something like, “He who has ears, let him hear?”
 - In the implication is that we often approach our Lord unwilling to hear.
 - *Mat 13:14-15 ESV Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. (15) For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them."*
 3. Be **slow** to speak! (Jam 1:19)
 - Instead of forming an opinion right away, listen. Instead of loading up mentally with why one shouldn't “do whatever He tells” them, be quiet. Hush! ☺
 - We are often too quick to talk...too quick to refute....too quick to scoff...too quick to debate.
 4. Be **slow** to anger! (Jam 1:19-20)
 - If we are honest, God's Word sometimes makes us angry.
 - The admonition, in the context of God's goodness AND being a doer, means we are not to receive the Word in the flesh.
 - Pray before you read and hear. Prepare your heart to receive “what thus says the Lord.”
 - Know going in that WE ALL have presuppositions, biases, hurts and fears, and insecurities.
 - The challenge is to surrender all that before the will of Christ!
 5. Pursue **holiness!** (Jam 1:21)
 - “Therefore put away...” is a command. It must be done intentionally.
 - This does not mean our obedience saves us; however we, the saved, should obey because we love Him!
 - The more one values righteousness, the easier it is to receive the Word! The greater and larger our vision is of our holy, majestic God, the greater our desire will be to honor Him!
 6. “Receive with meekness...!” (Jam 1:21)
 - **Humility.** This sums up 2-5 above.
 - If we can approach the Word of the Lord with meekness and trembling instead of pride and brashness, we are in position to walk in the magnificent mindset.
 - Humility doesn't presume it knows more than God.
 - Humility doesn't place the world's agenda before the Lord's.
 - Humility doesn't scoff, ridicule, and jeer at God's Word.
 - This is one reason God hates pride so much, and so values humility. Humility keeps His people in position to truly hear, and then do.
 7. Allow the word to be “implanted.” (Jam 1:21)
 - More on this one next week, as we study the *Parable of the Sower*.
 - But just know this: God's seed on good hearts **grows**.
 - You will see it eventually, as it breaks out of the ground!

May we all, more and more, have Mary's Magnificent Mindset. May our Lord help us love Him with our whole hearts.

Happy Mother's Day ladies, and may you inspire those around you to "do whatever He tells you."



Amen.