Honoring Jesus On Mother’s Day
Luke 7:36-50 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

Ask any preacher, “What is the hardest sermon you have to prepare each year” and most will tell you it’s a Mother’s Day sermon, and a Father’s Day sermon is second.

The typical Mother’s Day sermon falls along one of two lines:

One, is to “Celebrate Godly Mothers” and tell you how great and wonderful you are, and how much God loves you, and how blessed we are to have you in our lives. And all those things are certainly true!

The other type of “Mother’s Day” sermon counsels mothers on “How to be a better mother.” These sermons tend to remind a mother of her failures and short-comings by comparing her to that ideal wife and mother in Proverbs 31.

Today I wish to steer clear of either of these stereo-typical Mother’s Day sermons and preach a different kind of mother’s day sermon that I pray will minister to all of you ladies here this morning.

The title of my message this morning is “Honoring Jesus On Mother’s Day.”
Please turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 7.

Luke 7:36-39 (NKJV)

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat.

37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, “This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

When God created woman from the rib of man, GOD viewed the woman as equal in value to the man. She was man’s helpmate........she was his partner........she completed the man.

Adam was so “smitten” by the woman God had created for him, he shouted, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.”

(Genesis 2:23 NKJV)
Unfortunately, with the passing of time, man’s view of women drastically changed.

It is a well-documented fact that women in the ancient Roman world and Jewish society of Jesus’ day were viewed as “second class citizens.” They were viewed as “the personal property” of the man and were considered of no greater value than a man’s sheep or cattle.

Women were considered inferior to the man intellectually, physically, and emotionally and therefore women were never allowed to testify in court trials.

If an un-married woman wanted to go outside the house she had to get permission from her father. If a married woman wanted to go outside the house she had to get permission from her husband. And in both cases, they were never to appear in public without having their faces “doubly veiled” and they were never to speak to a stranger.

In our scripture text we see this negative attitude of men towards women on full display.

**COMMENTS ON LUKE 7:36-39**

Jesus had been invited to eat in the home of Simon the Pharisee. Everyone seated at the table that day was a man.

While they were eating “a woman known to be a sinner” entered the room where all these men were dining and she began to extravagantly worship Jesus. She anointed Jesus’ feet with a fragrant oil and with her tears, and she wiped Jesus feet with her hair, and she kissed Jesus feet, and anointed them with more of the fragrant oil.
All the sudden the dinner host, Simon the Pharisee, interrupted this moving scene with these cold, insensitive words:

v.39 “This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

The implication in that statement is that every male in that room knew who this sinful woman was, except Jesus. This woman obviously has a really bad reputation in the community, leading us to believe she was probably a prostitute or an adulteress.

In the eyes of every man in that room that woman had three strikes against her:

STRIKE ONE: She was a WOMAN.
STRIKE TWO: She was a SINFUL woman
STRIKE THREE: She was worshiping JESUS, a man whom they despised.

But as we continue on in our text, we see the honorable and respectful manner in which Jesus treated this woman.

Luke 7:40-50 (NKJV)

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.”

41 “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”
44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

48 Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

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When you look at how Jesus treated this sinful woman and how He treated women in general throughout His earthly ministry, it is easy to understand why it is both fitting and proper to HONOR JESUS ON THIS MOTHER’S DAY.

For one thing ladies..........  

I. Jesus VALIDATES Your Worth To God  

1. I think every woman here this morning would agree that one of your greatest needs is the need to be VALIDATED. You need to know that your life matters. You need to know that your life has worth.  


2. Look at how Jesus validated the worth of that Samaritan woman at the well in John chapter 4.

Here was a woman who had lived a very rough life. She had been married five times and was presently living with a sixth man, whom she was not married to.

While Jesus certainly did not condone or approve of the Samaritan woman’s lifestyle, He looked beneath the surface of a woman who had five failed marriages and He saw an “empty soul” crying out to be filled. And so Jesus offered her what no man had ever offered her before. He offered her “the living water.”

Jesus validated that woman’s worth to GOD.

3. And look at how Jesus validated the worth of that adulterous woman in John chapter 8.

When her accusers looked at this woman what they saw was a “worthless piece of trash” who was deserving of death. And they were intent on giving her what she deserved.

But then Jesus spoke those penetrating words: “Let him who is WITHOUT SIN cast the first stone at her.” One by one they walked away until the only ones left were Jesus and the condemned woman.

Jesus looked beneath the surface of this woman who had been caught in a very sinful act and He said, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, LORD” she replied.

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”
4. Ladies, the comforting message to you on this Mother’s Day is that **JESUS VALIDATES YOUR WORTH TO GOD.**

   Jesus looks beyond **all your sins**......and **all your failures**........and **all your foolish choices**.......and **all the unwise decisions of your youth**........and He sees a soul that is so precious and so valuable to His Heavenly Father that He was willing to lay down His own life to save you.

   Your life matters to God! Your life is worth everything to God.

Secondly ladies........

**II. Jesus VALUES You As A WOMAN Of God**

1. Chances are most of you ladies find your identity in some role that you play in the lives of others.
   
   - You are your husband’s **WIFE.**
   - You are your children’s “**Mom**” or **“Mother.”**
   - You are your grandkid’s “**Grandma**” or “**Meema**”
   - You are your sibling’s **“Sister.”**
   - And you are your niece’s and nephew’s “**Aunt.**”

2. And if you’re like most women, you get a great sense of value from those various roles you play in the lives of others.

3. Ladies, Jesus doesn’t just value you for the roles you play in the lives of others, He values you as **A PERSON.**
4. You see, sometimes we forget that you moms once had a life that didn’t revolve around us.

   We forget that at one time you were a little girl who wore pigtails and played with dolls and entertained imaginary guests at your little tea parties.

   We forget that you used to lie awake giggling and chatting up a storm with your girl friends who came to your house for those overnight slumber parties.

   We forget that you used to sing in the High School choir……..or that you were a cheerleader for the basketball team…..or that you once had a huge crush on the quarterback of the football team.

5. Jesus has never forgotten “the little girl” you once were and “the lady” you have become. He values you as a woman.

   CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me just say this: It is no wonder that it was a woman who was the first at the cradle and the last at the cross. You can search every verse in the Gospels, every miracle and every parable, and you will never find Jesus cracking jokes or making disparaging remarks about a woman. He treated women with dignity and respect and honor, even those who were shunned by society.

Ladies, were it not for JESUS, your life would be drastically different. How different you ask? Just look at the way women are treated in the Muslim world today, and you will get a pretty good idea.

And were it NOT for JESUS, I dare say there would be NO Mother’s Day Celebration. And so ladies, as we honor you and express our gratitude to you today for all you have done to enrich our lives, let’s not forget to HONOR JESUS ON THIS MOTHER’S DAY!