Remnant Life Church May 13, 2018 A Mother's Sacrifice (Mother's Day) I Kings 3:16-28

Men: What NOT to Buy Your Wife: Although the only person a man usually shops for is his wife, the whole experience is a stressful one. Many a man has felt extreme frigid temperatures

for a long period based on a poor present decision. Having spoken to many men who have lived through these wars. I'll pass on what NOT to buy her:

1. Don't buy anything that plugs in. Anything that requires electricity is seen as utilitarian.

2. Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in ten thousand that you will get her size right, and she will be offended the other 9,999 times. "Do I look like a size 18?" she'll say. Too small a size doesn't cut it either: "I haven't worn a size 6 in 25 years!"

3. Avoid all things useful. A new vacuum cleaner advertised to save hours in clean-up time is not going to win you any brownie points.

- 4. Don't buy jewelry. The jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want.
- 5. Don't buy anything sports related like a new driver or putter thinking she'll actually believe it's for her. She will see through that quicker than you can call and make your tee time.
- 6. Finally, don't spend too much. "How do you think we're going to afford that?" she'll ask. But don't spend too little. She won't say anything, but she'll think, "So that's all I'm worth to him, huh?"

READ: I Kings 3:16-28

- We usually regard this passage as the shining example of Solomon's God-given wisdom
 - But there is another story there too a Mother's Day story
- This is not your traditional Mother's Day story
 - This is not about the TV mom of the 50's and 60's who would vacuum the living room in a pleated skirt, matching blouse, heels, perfect hair and makeup and wearing a string of pearls
 - These two mothers could not be further from that
- Look at what we know about them
 - o They are prostitutes (v 16)
 - While it was looked down on as an undesirable way of life it was tolerated (because the men made the rules see the connection with that?)
 - Often prostitutes were slaves whose owner used her to make money for himself
 - They may be women who had never married and had no other way to support themselves
 - The may have been desperate widows (Jesus' compassion for them)

- "...They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely." Matt 12:40
- They had both conceived children with a man they had no contact with
 - They were speaking for themselves before the King which meant they were alone
- One thing is certain they were no better off now, even as a mother, then they were when they had no children
- One has lost her baby; one had her baby abducted; neither were going anywhere better with their lives
- Why would Solomon take the time to speak with them?
 - He had the compassion of a loving God in His life just as he had His wisdom
 - His actions are a blueprint for what the church today should be seeking the lost not the disgruntled!
 - Fewer times in history when people are hurting as much as they are today
 - The lost need to find Jesus and they will most often find Him through the kindness of a Christian
- Just as these women were not perfect so there is no perfect mother
 - o A common belief that is not true having a baby makes you a mother (or a father)
 - No more than having a piano in your house makes you a musician
 - It is a process, a journey or victories and mistakes just like the daily walk of a Christian
- So back to our story
 - O This situation is as far from perfect as you can get
 - 2 women under the same roof living as prostitutes
 - One is a schemer and the other is heart-broken
 - But only one was the mother
 - Solomon knew, in the wisdom that God had given him, the real mother would do anything to protect her baby
 - And that is exactly what happened
 - The birth mother was willing to give up her baby rather than see him harmed
 - That is a love of sacrifice
 - That is what God did for each of us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ a sacrificial love
 - Many of us here this morning have seen that modeled in our mothers
- Of course, Mother's Day is not always easy
 - You never fully recover from the loss of your mother
 - A difficult relationship with your mother often impacts the child well into their adult years
 - The empty desire to be a mother that was never fulfilled
- But just as Solomon had wisdom and love for his people given by God so, too, we have those same gifts available to us
 - o How do we use them?

- First, give your life over to God every day!
- Second, look for the opportunity to love in every situation
- Finally, learn one of the great secrets to being a good mom (or a good dad or just a good person)
 - Don't take everything so seriously especially yourself!
 - In that too, make the "little things" of your life a priority (joy, laughter, being polite, a random act of kindness...)

God's love is meant to be enjoyed and shared – don't miss out on the opportunity to experience that every day

We honor our mothers today but we should every day for all that have done and continue to do for us.

Ex 10 – Moses receives the 10 commandments

- 9 of them are straight directives (do this/ don't do that)
- Only 1 carries with it a promise
 - o (v 12) Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Happy Mother's Day to all the women here today (Love to my Mom!)

Gift for the mothers -