

## What Is Better?

*Luke 10:38-42*

*Mother's Day, 2010*

- Sermon's theme = God has a better way for mothers to raise their children than the plan and expectations of the world.

### Introduction

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- Open your Bibles to Luke 10
- Ayelet Waldman – from March 27, 2005 New York Times Article
  - ✓ “If a good mother is one who loves her child more than anyone else in the world, I am not a good mother. I am in fact a bad mother. I love my husband more than I love my children.”
  - ✓ “...the wife's passion has been refocused. Instead of concentrating her ardor on her husband, she concentrates it on her babies. Where once her husband was the center of her passionate universe, there is now a new sun in whose orbit she revolves.”
- Ayelet Waldman – from Bad Mother (2010)
  - ✓ Q: “What is your definition of a good mother?”
  - ✓ AW: As one of my interview subjects said, “A Good Mother remembers to serve fruit at breakfast, is always cheerful and never yells, manages not to project her own neuroses and inadequacies onto her children, is an active and beloved community volunteer. She remembers to make playdates, her children's clothes fit, she does art projects with them and enjoys all their games. And she is never too tired for [her husband].”
- The problem of demands and expectations on mothers remind me of a story from Luke 10
- Luke 10:38-42
  - 38 *As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.*
  - 39 *She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.*
  - 40 *But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

- 41 *"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,*
- 42 *but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*
- Martha is concerned that Mary isn't doing all the things she (Martha) thinks she (Mary) should be doing
  - Jesus' description of Martha, "*you are worried and upset about many things,*" would seem to describe many mothers today

## Sermon

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- Does anyone want to guess what goes in the first blank of the notes? (The \_\_\_\_\_ of being a "Good Mother")
- **The Lie of being a Good Mother**
  - A good mother never loses track of her child
  - Luke 2:41-46 (Mary)
    - 41 *Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.*
    - 42 *When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.*
    - 43 *After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.*
    - 44 *Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.*
    - 45 *When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.*
    - 46 *After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*
      - Mary was a good mother but she lost track of Jesus for a least a day before even noticing that He was gone
  - A good mother is always around to help her child
  - 1 Samuel 1:24-28 (Hannah)
    - 24 *After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.*
    - 25 *When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli,*

- 26 *and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.*
- 27 *I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.*
- 28 *So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.*
- Hannah was a good mother but she took Samuel to Eli when he was 2 to 3 years old and then would only see him occasionally after that

➤ A good mother never abandons her child

➤ Exodus 2:1-4 (Jochebed)

- 1 *Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman,*
- 2 *and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.*
- 3 *But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.*
- 4 *His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.*
- Jochebed was a good mother but she abandoned Moses to the Nile (and crocodiles)

➤ A good mother does what they can to insure a good future for her child (any sacrifice)

➤ Genesis 27:1-30 (Rebekah)

- 5 *Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back,*
- 6 *Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau,*
- 7 *'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.'*
- 8 *Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you:*
- Rebekah was a good mother but she led her son Jacob in manipulating his father to get ahead and to get what wasn't his

❖ **The world wants “good” mothers and puts all kinds of expectations on mothers to help “determine” which ones are good**

❖ **God has a different standard for mothers than the world’s “good”**

- Going back to Luke 10 and Jesus’ description of Martha, “*you are worried and upset about many things,*” as a description of mothers today, we can find His admonition to Mather, “[*she*] *has chosen what is better,*” helpful to mothers today
- Does anyone want to guess what goes in the blank for the second point of the notes? (The Responsibilities of a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Mother)
- **The Responsibilities of a Godly Christian Mother**
  - Choose what is better – the things that concern God and not the world (or even every other mother out there)
  - Disciple your Children
  - Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)
    - 19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
    - 20 *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
    - “...go...” = As you are going or as you are living your life
    - “...make disciples...” = Not doctors, lawyers, pastors or missionaries but disciples; Not college graduates, well-rounded students, fine citizens
    - “...of all nations...” = All peoples – your kids are people
    - “...baptizing them...” = Bringing them, through faith, to identify with God and enjoy a relationship with Him
    - “...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...” = Seeing them become disciples of Jesus Christ
    - Submission: Prayer, Worship, Tithing
    - Memorization: Reading, Meditating
    - Action: Serving
    - Imitation: Being (see below)
    - Multiplication: Sharing
  - Nurture your Children

➤ Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)

22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

23 *gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

- Nurture = to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior
- Love = Being Loving and loving yourself – teach your kids to love themselves (properly)
- Joy = Finding joy in your children and being joy for your children
- Peace = Bringing peace to your children’s lives
- Patience = Showing your children patience with them and with others
- Kindness = Being kind to your children and to those around you
- Goodness = Being and doing what is right
- Faithfulness = Being dependable
- Gentleness = Being tender with your children
- Self-control = Being in control of your emotions, actions, reactions and responses with your children
- If your children will see and experience the fruit of the Spirit in your life, they will be far better off than a child with all the luxuries, benefits and training that money can buy
- Strive to be a godly mother and not merely a “good” mother – live to God’s standard and not your own (or that of other mothers)

❖ **Practical Application:**

- Laundry – Dirty clothes and Play clothes
- Dishes – Chores for kids (and husbands) and Paper plates
- Meals – Rachel Ray and kids (and husbands)
- Home Décor – Martha Stewart and the Man Cave
- Cleaning – Dirt floors, no lights and no stuff
- Chauffer – Soccer, Piano, Karate, Etc. and time with your kids (and husbands)
- Crafts and Cards – Stamping/Scrapbooking and budget cards
- Bedtimes – Free range and set times

- ❖ **God doesn't judge moms on how their kids turned out but how they lived to their responsibility to raise them**

## Response

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- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to make disciples of Jesus Christ.**
  - Observers = See Jesus and who you can become if you follow Him
  - Disciples = Follow Jesus and help other to follow Him