

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

"WHO IS MY MOTHER?"

Mat. 12-48

On one occasion when Jesus was teaching in a certain place his mother and his brethren came to see him, and one came to him and said, "Thy mother and thy brethren stand without desiring to speak with thee." Then Jesus replied with the question in the words of our text.

In asking this question Jesus implied that the term mother may have more than one application, and when we look into the scriptures we find they teach the same. That is, to be a mother in the highest sense means to be more than a female parent. Deborah, a prophetess who delivered Israel from the Canaanites in the days of the Judges, was called, "A Mother in Israel." The apostle Paul gave the term "mother" a spiritual significance when he wrote to the Galatians and called the true church the "mother of us all." Of course we are aware of the fact that our so-called "Mother's Day" was instituted or set apart for the purpose of conferring special honors on our own mothers of our flesh and blood, and I am sure this is a very worthy motive indeed, because good mothers have done more for the good of all mankind than most of us have any idea of. Many of our most successful reformers, outstanding men of the past, who have accomplished much in the cause of righteousness have attributed their success to their noble mothers who gave them birth, and prayed, and laborer to make them what they ought to be. We could mention several mothers whose names are in the scriptures who gave to the world and the cause of righteousness great sons whom God used mightily for the good of all mankind. First of all of course would be Mary the mother of Jesus whom God so honoured in motherhood. We think of Hannah the mother of the great prophet and judge of Israel, Samuel, for whom his mother prayed until God heard and gave her a son which she gave back to God again and brought him to the high priest to serve God in the temple at the very early age of two years old. Also Moses, Israel's law-giver and saviour from the land of Egypt, and slavery was the product of faith and prayer by godly parents who saw he was a proper child and feared not the king's command and when his mother could no longer hide her son she built an ark for him as Noah the man of God had done for the preservation of his family so many years before. She put her son in the ark and placed it in the bullrushes by the river and God honored her faith, and gave her baby boy back to her bosom with wages from the king's daughter to care for him. No doubt his mother was instrumental in

moulding that great character whom "when he was come to years, by faith" refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming reproach for Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. We would also mention Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist of whom it is said that she with her husband Zacharias was righteous before God and walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. She bore a son of whom Jesus said there was none greater born of women and was more than a prophet for John was honored by God by being made the forerunner of Christ.

But notice please that the women whose names are mentioned in the foregoing were all more than female parents. They were God-honoring, God-fearing mothers: women of faith, deep piety, and prayer, who prayed and prevailed with God so He heard and answered. A great many mothers will receive nice presents on Mother's Day from their children who will also wear a beautiful flower in honor of their memory again this year which is all well and good, but notice how Jesus put the emphasis on spirituality. When they told him that his mother stood without and wanted to speak with him, He said "Who is my mother?" and who are my brethren?" And he stretched forth His hand toward His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, my sister and my mother." May God bless all the noble Christian mothers of our land, many who have children, and many mothers in Israel who have none of their own: but are nevertheless God-honoring women of deep piety who will have spiritual children to their credit. And may God help all women who have sons and daughters to see their privilege and responsibility of training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

MY MOTHER

Who was my mother?

One sent from God's own loving heart,
To earth a while to have a part
In working out His plans divine,
Which for us all He did combine—
And that is who my mother was.

How did my mother live?

Her life was like a loving flower,
From day to day, from hour to hour;
'Twas always fill'd with fragrance sweet
With love and patience most replete,
And that is how my mother lived.

What did my mother do?

She gave her life,—and gave it free,
She gave it, too, unselfishly;
In love and care, and toil and pain,
That her loved ones the best might gain
And that is what my mother did.

How did my mother speak?

For half a hundred years and more,
I've heard sweet voices o'er and o'er,
In conversation, song, and prayer,
But none with mother's can compare—
And that is how my mother spoke.

Where did my mother go?

She gladly went where'er she knew
That there was something she could do
To lift a load from some crushed heart

Or stop a tear about to start—

Yes, that is where my mother went.

Where is my mother now?

One day she said, "Good-bye" to all,
For she had heard the Savior's call;
And then she went with God to be
At home in Heaven eternally,—

Ah, that is where my mother is!

—Selected.

"WESLEY'S FEAR OF DEATH BEFORE HIS CONVERSION TO GOD"

Returning to England from America, a storm arose which threatened the life of all on board. Among the passengers were a number who had their peace made with God and were ready to die. Wesley noticed how composed they were, everything in readiness, nothing to do but die. With himself it was not so, because he had not found Jesus. The following observations are found in his journal in reference to this incident.

"Let me observe hereon," says he, "1—That not one of these hours of awful suspense ought to ever pass out of my remembrance, till I attain another manner of spirit; a spirit equally willing to glorify God by life or death, which ever my Lord allows. 2—That whosoever is uneasy on any account, (bodily pain alone excepted) carries in himself, his own conviction that he is so far an unbeliever. Is he uneasy at the apprehension of Death? Then he believeth not, that to 'Die is gain,' at any of the events of Life. He hath not a firm belief. 'That all things work together, for his good.' And if he brings the matter more close, he will always find, beside the general want of faith, every particular uneasiness is evidently owing to the want of some particular Christian temper."

When this great Apostle of Holiness actually passed out, having found the faith in fulness and after having "Fought the good fight", around him gathered many of his devoted followers, not to mourn as those having no hope, but to sing the following hymn as only Methodists of those days could sing,—

Weep not for a brother deceased,

Our loss is his infinite gain;
A soul out of prison released,
And free from its bodily chain;
With songs let us follow his flight,
And mount with his spirit above,
Escaped to the mansions of light,
And lodged in the Eden of love.

Our brother the haven hath gained,
Out-flying the tempest and wind;
His rest he hath sooner obtained,
And left his companions behind,
Still tossed on a sea of distress,
Hard toiling to make the blest shore,
Where all is assurance and peace,
And sorrow, and sin are no more.

There all the ship's company meet,
Who sailed with the Savior beneath;
With shouting each other they greet,
And triumph o'er trouble and death;
The voyage of life's at an end,
The mortal affliction is past,
The age that in heaven they spend,
Forever and ever shall last.

Thus they laid away their pattern saint of the eighteenth century, and the same abundant entrance is still ministered unto all who will thus follow the Lord.—W.G. Burns in The Holiness Era.