

## What Mothers Say

Have you ever heard your mother say any of these things? “Don't run with that; if you trip, you'll put your eye out. If you keep crossing your eyes, they'll stick that way. Don't run in the house. You're gonna wear THAT? We're almost there. Don't chew with your mouth open. Don't talk with your mouth full. No, you can't have that; it'll spoil your dinner. I don't care what his mother says, you're not going. Don't put that in your mouth; you don't know where it's been. Because vegetables are good for you, and the children in China are starving. Just because everyone else is doing it doesn't mean you have to. If everyone else jumped off the Shippingport Bridge, would you jump, too? Don't ask me, ask your father. Close the door; you weren't born in a barn. Don't slam the door! Get your elbows off the table. Sit up straight; stop slouching in that chair. Who said life was supposed to be fair? Always say please and thank you. Don't give me any of your lip. As long as you live under my roof, you'll follow my rules. I'll tell you why; because I said so, that's why. You wanna cry, I'll give you a reason to cry! If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times. You want something to do? I'll give you something to do. This is your last warning. I'm not just talking to hear my own voice. What part of No don't you understand? Shut up and answer me! I don't care what everyone else is doing; I'm not everyone else's mother. You're not leaving the house dressed like that! Don't use that tone with me! Don't you roll your eyes at me! If I catch you doing that one more time... Act your age. Wipe your feet! Don't make me stop this car! Put a sweater on. Take that hat off. What did I just tell you?”

Motherhood. How did our mothers survive the burden of raising us? May all good mothers be honored by all godly children. What a blessing they are! “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” (Prov. 31:28). Give thanks to God for your own mother and the mother of your children, and let them know how much you love and appreciate them every day.

## Understanding What God Says

A man from Switzerland, looking for directions, pulled up at a bus stop where two Americans were waiting.

“Entschuldigung, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?” he asked in perfect German. The two Americans just stared at him.

“Excusez-moi, parlez vous Francais?” he inquired in clear French. The two continued to stare.

“Parlare Italiano?” He queried in flawless Italian. Again, no response.

“Hablan ustedes Espanol?” he questioned in textbook Spanish. Still nothing but dull stares from the Americans.

The Swiss guy drove off, quite upset. The first American turned to the second and said, “Y'know, mebbe we should learn us a foreign language.”

“Why?” asked the other. “That feller knew four languages, and it didn't do him a bit of good.”

It's true. Knowing a lot of languages is no guarantee that you can communicate with someone. Even Jesus, the great communicator, found that there were people who couldn't (or wouldn't) understand what he was saying. “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand...” (Matt. 13:13).

Why? It wasn't a problem of languages; it was a problem of the heart. “For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them” (Matt. 13:15).

## **Not Enough Chairs?**

The new preacher loaded his car with his large family and visited an aged deacon on his farm. After the introductions were made, there was an awkward pause as the unexpected guests looked for chairs upon which to sit. The living room had only two chairs. "Brother, I don't believe you have enough chairs," suggested the preacher.

"That ain't it," muttered the old man. "I got plenty of chairs. What I have is too much company."

Some Christians make it clear they don't want to spend much time with other Christians. Yet, our fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ is very important. Living in a hostile, worldly environment, we need the refreshing encouragement that comes from those who share the same hopes and goals that we have. God knew we would need each other; that the Christian life would be difficult if not impossible to live in isolation. That's what the church is all about. The early Christians certainly recognized the value of being together:

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 2:46, NIV). Take time today to spend a few moments with a fellow Christian, encouraging and being encouraged. Just be sure to have plenty of chairs available.

## **A Long, Deadly Grudge**

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD" (Lev. 19:18).

It was on the front pages of newspapers in 1880's, when the Hatfield clan of Virginia feuded with the McCoy clan from across the border in Kentucky. Historians disagree on the cause of the feud which captured the imagination of the nation during a 10-year run. Some say the feud originated from the Civil War tensions: the McCoys sympathized with the Union, the Hatfields with the Confederacy. Others say it began when the McCoys blamed the Hatfields for stealing hogs. As many as 100 men, women and children died. In May 1976, Jim McCoy and Willis Hatfield, the last two survivors of the original families, shook hands at a public ceremony dedicating a monument to the victims. Jim McCoy died Feb. 11, 1984, at age 99. He bore no grudges, and had his burial handled by the Hatfield Funeral Home in Toler, KY.

James 5:9 says, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

## **A Moments Wisdom**

--It is nearly impossible for anyone to learn what he thinks he already knows.

--In theory, there is nothing to hinder us from following what we are taught, but in life there are many things that lead us away from it.

--If I were a nightingale, I would sing like a nightingale; if I were a meadowlark, I would sing like a meadowlark. But I am a rational being; therefore, I must sing praises unto God.

--Any single thing in Creation is sufficient to prove Providence to a reasoning, humble, grateful mind.

--Do not be swept off your feet by the first vivid impression. But rather say, "Impression, wait for me a little while. Let me see what you truly are and what you represent. Let me test you."

--Whatever you would make a habit, practice it; and, if you would not make it a thing habitual, do not practice it, and accustom yourself to something else. (All sayings of Epictetus, 50-120 AD)