

Week 19
126/239

Transforming Daily

“... mother ...”

1 Kings 3:27

Contextually this passage is about the wisdom of God in Solomon. However the story itself reveals a universal truth about the genuine love of a mother for her child. The broader scope of the story includes two women who live in the same house and both birth children at the same time. One child dies in the night because the first woman accidentally smothers him. So the first woman takes the dead child and swaps it out for the second woman's child while the second woman was sleeping. The second woman awakes to find what has transpired, and takes the matter before King Solomon for justice.

Solomon gets to the root of the problem by threatening to divide the remaining child between the two women by cutting him in half. Of course the real mother violently objects to the order, and would rather the first woman have her child alive than to lose the child altogether by death. The real mother's compassion is the distinguishing characteristic over that of the first woman's lack thereof. The first woman didn't even care enough for her real child to dignify his life by claiming him at his death.

Just because a man and woman produce a child doesn't make them a father or a mother. It is compassion and care that makes the difference between a woman who just births a child and a mother who is dedicated to rear one. The desire for the safety and well being of a child by a mother often requires loving sacrifice, limitless suffering, and loyal service among many other virtuous attributes.

I thank God for my mother (Edith). She was always there for me, as well as for my brother and sister, and she still is. I thank God for the mother of my children (Dawn) who epitomizes the very attributes I just described, and others too numerous to mention, as she reared our children to the godly young adults they are today. I thank God for the mothers of my grandchildren (Yana and Amber) who glorify God, honor their parents, and show loving respect for their husbands, children, and deep self-respect for themselves as they pour their young lives into their children.

If you haven't had a chance to tell your mom that you love her, now is the time. If you haven't ever told your mother thanks for her investment in your life, or it's been a long time since you have, don't wait any longer. Just call her up and say, “I love you mom, and thanks for being my mother.”