

Luke 1, 45, 6.

In accordance with a resolution which was passed by the senate and the House of Representatives in May of the year 1913, this Sunday is being remembered nationally and internationally as Mothers Day. The day known as Mothers Day had its origin in the year 1907 when a certain young lady, a Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia told a friend that she would like to have her join her to remember the anniversary of the death of her mother who had died the year before. At this time she expressed her desire to dedicate a day to all mothers. Immediately she began to interest societies and various organizations and influential men in sponsoring the idea of a national Mothers Day to be held on each second Sunday in May. As a result of her efforts, Philadelphia observed the day in 1908. In 1913 then the day became a national holiday. The manner which has been prescribed in the observance of Mothers Day is thru "some distinct act of kindness, a visit, a letter, gift, or tribute to show the remembrance of the mother to whom general affection is due." The slogan set by the worldlings ~~xxx~~ for this day, is: In honor of the "best Mother who ever lived".

From the manner which is prescribed in observing this national holiday known as Mothers day, and from the slogan which is used, it is evident that this day is an institution of the world. Tho I in no way wish to give the impression that we should take exception to such day, yet to us Xtians it should be Mother's Day every day. It should not be necessary at all for the state to prescribe to a Christian that he should remember his Mother in a special way by a distinct act of kindness, on a given day. To us our Mother who is very near and dear to us, is a gift of G, and she has been placed over us by the L. Remembering this then, a Xtian will at all times do all he can for his mother. And this love to our mother is prompted by the love which we bear to our G, which in turn will help us to obey the commandment which we have all learned, "Honor thy father and thy Mother, that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Since this then is a day which has been set aside by every one as a special occasion to remember his dear parent, we too, in a Xtian manner will observe it by directing our attention to an example found in Holy Writ, attempting to show from this example what a true Xtian mother should be and what our mother should mean to us.

ELIZABETH, AN EXAMPLE OF A BELIEVING WIFE AND MOTHER.

1. The beauty of her character.
2. The rewards of her piety.

1. Elizabeth, the mother of John the baptist, who in turn was the fore-runner of X, lived in a very important epoch of the history of the world. It was the time immediately preceding the birth of the Saviour. The once exalted Jewish nation had been crushed, by the proud toe and as a result, everything was in a state of physical and spiritual unrest. The mass of people were ignorant and corrupt. The few, who still could be classed as cultured, either were members of the sect of the Pharisees or Sadducees. Only a few had remained true to G such as the faithful Simeon and Anna, and others. Among them we also have the mother of John, Elizabeth. She was truly a believing wife and Mother.

Elizabeth was a pious woman and consequently possessed a beautiful Xtian character. She was a descendent of Aaron, the first high priest of the Jews and a brother of Moses. We know nothing of her early life. She was married to Zacharias, the priest, and they lived at Hebron, about twenty miles from Jerusalem, in the hill country of Judea. How long they were married we do not know, however we are told that they were old and stricken in years when the promise of a son was given them. From the history which we have of this pious old couple, we can see that their married life was a happy one, and that their home was a scene of domestic peace, as it should be in every Xtian home. Being a descendant of the Jewish nobility, she must have been a cultured and intelligent woman. We have abundant evidence of her true Xtian character. So she was not only an intelligent, and cultured person, but she possessed the crowning glory of human character, that which makes a character truly beautiful, true, devoted, piety. And thus she is a shining example which every Xtian wife and mother should seek to emulate, that of a truly pious woman.

Elisabeth was blessed with a pious husband. Zacharias was not only her chosen companion for life, he not only shared her social joys, but especially did he share with her the spiritual joys. He not only loved her, but also loved her God. He not only ministered to her necessities but he was a servant of the God whom she adored. Their hearts were therefore not only united in love to each other, but also in the love of the supreme object, in the love to their God. In their home we do not only find harmony with regard to material things, we also find harmony regarding things spiritual, both of which make for the happiness of a home. My friend, what place on earth so nearly resembles heaven, if we may make such comparison, as a home like this, where there is not only mutual love to one another, but where there is also mutual love to the blessed God; where there is not only a family circle and table, but where there is also a family altar; where attention is not only paid to books in general, but where the Bible the Book of Books is used daily, and is cherished as the Word of God. O blessed home where these conditions exist. These are truly golden links which not only unite persons in this world, but such which even death's rude hand can sever only for a short time, but such which will again reunite them eternally in the home of the blest. Piety then is the true mark of Christian character and surely will be rewarded by the Lord. May that then be the ambition of every mother, to be a shining example to every one, especially in her own home, thru true Christian piety. Such example will not only impress her own family with a lasting impression, but will also impress such who are closely observing all her actions from without. But let us also note the rewards of her piety.

II.

Parents, especially mothers, live in the lives of their children. Let us stop to consider just for a moment the many sacrifices which our mother has made in the sole interest of our welfare. How she toiled to make everything pleasant for us. How she watched over us in case of sickness. ^{How she sacrificed many sleepless hours for our welfare.} We however did not realize at the time what she was doing for us, and perhaps thruout our youth that that mother might have done more for us. But only when we have lost our dear mother or when we have left our home and mother, do we begin to realize all that the mother's love has meant to us. May the Lord guard us all against the spirit of unthankfulness toward our parents but rather teach us to appreciate highly what they have done for us.

There was only one thing which marred the happiness of the example of our text, Elisabeth, and that was the fact that she had no child. ^{During her barren} Different from the ideas of our day, a woman looked upon it as a disgrace at that time to be without child. It is a lamentable fact in our so-called modern age, that a certain class of people reject God's gift of a family merely because they believe it to be too much trouble for them, or merely because it would hinder them from taking part in all their social affairs as they would like. It is an astounding fact that ~~8~~ eighty percent of the 10,000 couples granted ^{divorce} in Chicago last year were childless.

From our Text chapter it is evident that Elisabeth had asked her Lord in prayer for the gift of a child. Thus it happened that while Zacharias was offering up a sacrifice of incense, the Angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced to him that their prayer should be heard, and that Elisabeth his wife should bear him a son, and that they should call his name John. He also told him that this child could be great in the sight of the Lord, and should prepare the way for the Lord. In other words, he should be a fore-runner of the Christ child. But Zacharias doubted the message of the Angel with the result that he was stricken dumb until the birth of his son. And when this child was presented in the temple according to Jewish custom, they called his name John. And immediately the tongue of Zacharias was loosed and he could speak. And now in a spirit of joy and thankfulness, he raised his voice in a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for all his goodness and mercies toward him, and his people. And altho nothing more is told us in Scriptures regarding Elisabeth, the mother of John, we know what her subsequent life must have been, for her character is reflected in her son.

John, the son of Elisabeth, was a chosen vessel of G, he had been designate by G to be the person who should prepare the world for the coming of the Sav. And yet the rearing of this child fell to the lot of his mother. and the chapter from which our T is taken tells us that John grew and waxed strong in spirit. Thanks to his mother, she reared him in the nurture and admonition of the L. She taught him to love the G whom she and her husband loved and worshipped. She taught him the laws and statutes of the L. And, my fir, from her every xtian mother may learn a serious lesson. It too is the duty of every xtian mother to rear her children in the nurture and admonition of the L. The mother has the greatest influence over the heart and mind of the child, and if the mother will set a good example to her child, this example will make a deep and lasting impression on his heart.

The efforts of the pious mother Elisabeth were not in vain. John the Baptist became a powerful weapon in the hand of G, ~~xxx xxx~~. He preached repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of the Sav who was about to appear. He rebuked those who were living in sin, which, in the course of time, caused his death by being beheaded. His entire life reflected the life of his pious mother. And so it will also be with every xtian mother who rears her child in the nurture and admonition of the L. Her efforts will not be in vain. And tho, in later life, this same child whom she has so faithfully reared, goes astray in spite of her efforts, yet she as a mother has fulfilled her duty over her child. And so you Lutheran xtian mothers too have a G-given duty over against your child. You should so instruct your child in the xtian faith, that it too will share with you the joys of your xtianity. In order that this might be done efficiently after the child has begun its school, we have our SS, our confirmation instruction and our Bible Class, which every child should attend in order to become firmly rooted and founded in xtianity and in faith. May the L grant you all his grace and strength to perform your duties against your children as it behooves a xtian mother.

I would also mention a word to the children on this occasion. What do we as children really owe our parents. As we have learned from the fourth commandment, we first owe our parents, love, honor and obedience. Let us not forget that our mother and father have been placed over us by G. They are a gift of G. If we remember this, we will gladly obey them whenever they ask something of us. We will not "snubb or sass" them, but do all we can to make this life as pleasant for them as possible. We do not know how long the L will permit our mother to be with us. Let us therefore treat them as Gods gift to us, love, honor, obey, cherish them, remembering that when we are disobedient to them, we are grieving our L who has given mother and father to us.

May the L grant every xtian mother to lead a pious, life in the fear of G, so that she too will possess the jewel of jewels, a xtian character, and may he give her the strength to impart this beauty of her character to her children also. And may every child today and at all times learn and remember that his mother is a gift of G to us, and consequently love, honor and esteem her thruout life.