

One Mother's Advice

This will be my first Mother's Day without my mom. She passed away last August, and so I won't be able to hug her or see her sweet smile today. And if I want to bring her flowers, I will need to take them to the cemetery. She wasn't a saint, just a creative, good-hearted, god-fearing woman, whom I'm grateful to have had as my mother. In partnership with my dad, she did her best to train up her children *in the way they should go* (Proverbs 22:6). She taught us to love the Lord, value family, and do what's right.

She is clothed with strength and dignity... She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue... Her children arise and call her blessed... a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31: 25-30)

I hope you were as fortunate. If not, perhaps you had a relative, teacher, friend, or pastor who tried to guide you down the correct path, who offered the kind of parental advice all children need. Then, in turn, it becomes our responsibility to do the same for the children God places in our lives, to *...bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:4)

I came across the following quote a while ago, and I thought it would be appropriate to share here, as one "mother's" wise instruction. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said this:

*"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."*

This sounds like something my own mother would have said: Do the right thing, even if nobody notices or rewards you. God knows, and that's what matters most.

Blessings to all mothers today, as well as to everyone who stands in a mother's place! Much of your love, work, and sacrifice may seem to go unnoticed. But God sees it, and your reward will be great in heaven.

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