Healing Mother Wounds (Part 1)

Introduction

So many people are rejected by their mothers. This is often enabled by grandparents who take on mothering responsibilities. Eg a man I spoke to a couple of days ago telling me about his nephew.

Many women today are disassociating with their kids so that there is no hindrance in them getting a man. Apart from the common use of the word, The Hebrew word Ame for mother is also the same word for glue/bind. This is what a mother does. In the Greek it’s the word Meter which speaks of source; where something comes from. Metropolis - Founding or first city and distinguished from surrounding rural areas. It’s also large.

Gen 2:24

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Your relationship with your mother is a sequence of bonding initially and then separating healthily. Often there is dysfunction in either of the two; bonding and separation. Where there is no true leaving there will be an impact on the cleaving with your spouse.

Mother wounds are very subtle because we find it hard to admit them. It’s important to talk about them in order to experience healing. A lot of our wounding is due to how we interpreted things when we were young. It’s not to say that we were necessarily wronged.

The role of mother and father is regarded very highly in scripture. We are not just called to honour our fathers bit also our mothers. This shows me that God regards this role very highly.

Mark 7:10 “10 For Moses said, Honour (revere with tenderness of feeling and deference) your father and your mother, and, He who curses or reviles or speaks evil of or abuses or treats improperly his father or mother, let him surely die.”

Ex. 21:15 “15 Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.”

Prov. 20:20 “20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in complete darkness.”

Most sons have been trained and are expected to be protective of their mother and her feelings at all costs. This is why for a lot of men it’s not easy dealing with Mother wounds.

The biblical portrait of a mother

It’s important for women to understand their role as mother. You are not called to mother your husband. A lot of men today are looking for needs to be met by their wives that only a mother can give. It’s because they are wounded they confuse the love of a mother with the love of a wife. A lot of women enable this by treating their husbands like their children. Eg As long as I feed them all, they will be fine. Fathers in a home also play a role in honouring the role of mother.

1. Homemaker
   Sadly in modern times we have moved away from placing value on the home.
   Tit. 2:4-5
Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

If find it interesting that it uses two different words for loving your husband and loving your children, philandrous and philoteknous.

Another translation reads: “5 To be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good-natured (kindhearted), adapting and subordinating themselves to their husbands…”

This is also the connotation of the Greek word “ourse” (Strong’s 3626) meaning to be “domestically inclined”. Oikourgous comes from Oikos and Ergon. Home and Work. However, an analysis of the Torah reveals a far deeper and more encompassing revelation of this “job” / mandate. Although the New Testament was written in Greek, it was written by people with a Hebraic mindset. The Hebrew word is: “shâmar” (Strong’s 8104) which means the following:

- To plant a hedge about as in thorns to protect. - To be circumspect, to look carefully, to observe and watch. We see therefore that the understanding of “keeper” is more about the calling of watchman on the wall of intercessor than it is the household chores.

Ps. 121:5 “5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand [the side not carrying a shield].”

A keeper is aware of impending danger. This is a watchman role of a mother.

Proverbs 31:15, 21, 27

15 She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.

21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

She makes sure that her family is fed, clothed warmly and manages the affairs of the household. She is not lazy about it. She is on top of things at home.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Here is an example of the opposite:

Job 39:16 “16 She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not hers; her labour is in vain because she has no sense of danger [for her unborn brood],”

2. Teaching

Prov 1:8

Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

Prov 31:1, 3-4, 8

1The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him: 2What, O my son? And what, O son of my womb? And what, O son of my vows?...
Do not spend your strength on women, your vigour on those who ruin kings. It is not for kings, Lemuel— it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, …..8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

His mother taught him about women, the dangers of drinking habits and justice. If a mother can teach a king why have we limited women so much?

3. Accessibility and approachability
   Is. 49:15-16 “15 [And the Lord answered] Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you.

   Ex 2:8

   And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother.

4. Identificational Sacrificial Love
   Jer 50:12
   Your mother will be greatly ashamed; she who gave you birth will be disgraced. She will be the least of the nations— a wilderness, a dry land, a desert.

   This is seen in handicapped children. The mother often outstays the father. This puts mothers in a powerful position to intercede for their children. They are emotionally involved with them.

5. Nurture and Comfort
   Ps 22:9 “…You made me hope and trust when I was on my mother’s breast.”
   Is 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

   Sometimes breast feeding can be physically impossible. However, the mother can still continue with the nurturing process even while bottle-feeding.

   “Storge” love has both masculine and feminine forms and we have various experiences of these during our childhood. By the time the baby reaches the age of two years the father starts to play his role of giving “storge” love. However, if the baby has not received this nurturing love from the mother, it would be unable to receive this love from the father and would also be unable to receive it from or give it to its brothers and sisters.

   “Storge” love is primarily administered in three ways: • Large amounts of affectionate touch. • Eye contact (83% of what you learn comes through the eye gate). • Tone of voice (not just words like “I love you”). A baby understands the mother’s tone, not the words.

   Scientific studies have shown that the thoughts of the mother affect the child inside the womb. What the mother hears, feels or thinks affects the emotions of the child. If a child was conceived in lust, sometimes the mother’s fears and emotions during that time pass on to the child who ends up frigid and guarded sexually. Sadly so many men reject their wives or girlfriends during pregnancy. The part of your brain that remembers emotional memories is very powerful.

   Our bonding with our mothers as babies will determine how we respond later in life – with love or fear, with trust or distrust. At the moment of conception one becomes a living spirit and there is
spirit-to spirit communion between the mother and the child in the womb. This principle can be physically proven today to show that if a mother “thinks” of smoking a cigarette, the child’s heartbeat would increase.

Nurturing love teaches children to trust. Mothers must help their children “to awaken” nurturing love; children must learn to receive. The mother must bring this ability, this nurturing love, forth. If this doesn’t happen the child will identify with masculinity and will not know or learn how to receive love, resulting fragmented relationships.

Signs of an unhealthy mother relationship

You may feel:

1. Unable to communicate with her.
2. Her lack of respect for your choices and values
3. Her refusal to accept your own family and friends
4. A lack of freedom to have a separate life without losing her love.
5. Disconnected from and misunderstood by her.
6. Difficulty in saying “no” and confronting her.
7. You have to hide your real self and be perfect.
8. Responsible to make her think she is perfect.
9. Guilt when you don’t take care of her as she wants you to.
10. Disillusionment and conflict over her interactions with your spouse.
11. Guilt over not living up to her expectations and wishes.
12. Sorrow that she can’t seem to comprehend your pain.
13. Childlike in her presence.
15. Like crying when she treats your children in familiar hurtful ways.