

## THE TOUCH OF INFLUENCE

WILLIS 5/10/09

Luke 1:26-38

This being Mother's Day I thought it good to return to our theme for the year "Touched by the Eternal." **To be touched by the eternal is to be touch by the life and influence of a godly mother.**

- There are few things in life that carry the magnitude of influence, hope and genuine care as a mother's touch.
- I want to speak to us today concerning the power of influence. **I want to speak to Mothers in particular and to all in general as to how lives can be changed through this leavening force called, influence.**
- Mothers carry a God given touch that enables them to influence their children and even those around them like no other. Mothers are seldom Mothers to just their own. Like the Scriptures say of our first mother Eve, "She was Mother to all the living."
- **Being that we can influence far more than we can control, Mothers have the God given capabilities to influence far more than their immediate own.**
- You may clothe and shelter 1, 2, 3 or 8 but you have the God given capabilities to touch nations.

Growing up Catholic I became well aware that Jesus had a mother. Though Catholicism has venerated Mary far beyond the place the Scriptures actually give her, we Protestants have done no better in giving her no place at all.

- Though Mary is not to be given a place with the Divine, her Motherhood is to be recognized as a patterned role in shaping the character of the man Jesus.
- By patterned role I mean example, someone to emulate like we would seek to emulate the godly virtues of the Apostle Paul, the boldness or courage of the Apostle Peter. **Mary is a pattern Mother who though dead her example of a laid down lover still speaks.**
- Her influence is seen in the power of her surrender. Her example still speaks through her simplicity of faith. Her impact still awakens the revolution that is born when a person is willing to take God at His Word.
- Perhaps there is a Protestant view of Mary we need to redig? What impact might an Evangelical view of Mary have? If perhaps we can get past the reaction to her overt veneration, then we can drink from the well of her absolute surrender.

Having just spent 3 weeks looking at the end of Christ's life, let's go back and look at His beginning. **Luke 1:26-38**

In Mary we see most significant influence begins with some kind of divine interruption. Motherhood is perhaps the most interruptible role known to man consequently it is one of the most influencing.

- In v.28 re read, “Hail favored one, the Lord is with you.” Immediately Mary knew something was about to change...v.29 says, “Mary was greatly troubled at this statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be.”
- Commentator Spiro Zodhiates says of this verse, **“When we ask God to bless us or speak well of us, we are asking Him to not merely approve of our plans but to interfere with our lives.”**
- To be touched by the eternal is to allow God to interfere with every aspect of our lives. Change our desires, redirect our pursuits, override our decisions and ever counteract our directions.

**Mothers are those willing to be interfered with. A mother’s life is a life laid down in service to others so it is a life held up by the favor of God.** Mary’s willingness to be interfered with is a spiritual well we would all do well to continually drink from.

This Mother’s heart of surrender is played out in 2 hallmark verses that continue to speak influence in our lives today.

1. **Lk 1:38 “Be it done to me according to your word.”**
2. **Jn 2:5 “Whatever He says to you do it.”**

The ultimate contribution of a mother is to impart to her children and to all those she might touch an absolute resignation to the will and way of God. The legacy of Mary’s life was trust and obey for nothing shall be impossible with God.

- It’s the faith of a mother. The faith of one who has had an encounter with God. **Influence is all about bringing people in to our encounter with God.** Our influence will go deeper if we equip people to hear God for themselves rather than tell them what God said.

**A mother finds her ultimate influence only as she centers her life and the life of her children in the person of Jesus Christ.** In v.48 Mary says, “...from this time on all generations will call me blessed.”

- It is very important to note the word Mary chose to use for “blessed” was not the common word for bless, “eulogeo” from which we get “eulogize... “to speak well of.” God’s intent was for the generations to do more than just speak well of Mary.
- Under the inspiration of Holy Spirit Mary uses the Greek word, **“makarizo...to pronounce one as indwelt by God thus fully satisfied.”**

- “From this time on all generations will pronounce me indwelt by God thus fully satisfied in Him.”

**As a pattern mother, Mary’s life lives to illustrate the only pathway to full and complete satisfaction is to be indwelt by God in an ever increasing manner.**

- Successful motherhood is not first and foremost hard work, sound principles or constant discipline...as vital as all of these are. Successful motherhood is first and foremost to be indwelt by God and find your full and complete satisfaction in Him.
- “Well if only my husband was... if only my children were...if only I had...” As important as all of those might be **your ultimate influence and total satisfaction will be found as you find yourself indwelt by God in an ever increasing way.**

So moms I leave you today with perhaps a more Evangelical perception of Mary. A Mary who like Peter, Paul or John is a pattern of surrender we can emulate...a spiritual well from which we can drink.