**A Mother's Love**

1 Kings 3: 16-28

As Mother's Day approaches, many will remember the love and sacrifices their mothers made to provide for their well- being. I remember my mother working as a maid, cooking and cleaning in others homes and coming home to do the same in ours. Many times she did without so we could have what we needed. Children rarely understand or always appreciate the heavy burdens many mothers carry, so that they won't have to bear them. A mother's love is unselfish and sacrificial.

In our message drawn from 1 Kings 3, we are told that Solomon, the son of David, was very young when he became King of Israel. God appeared to hm in a dream and told Solomon to ask for anything he wanted from Him. Solomon didn't ask for wealth, a long life nor for the destruction of his enemies, but asked instead for wisdom, so he would be able to effectively govern God's people.

The first part of this chapter focuses on when Solomon received his gift of wisdom, and verses 16-28 demonstrates how his wisdom was used to discern the truth from a lie. In the story two women who were prostitutes and lived together gave birth to sons three days apart. One of the women's sons died. She switched her dead son with the other's live one while his mother slept.

This issue was brought to Solomon with both women claiming that the live son was hers. Solomon asked for a sword and ordered that the child be cut in half and a piece given to each woman. One of the women embraced the idea, saying that neither of them should be given the child, while the true mother begged the king not to harm the child, but rather give him to the other woman so he could live. Solomon discerned that she was the true mother, since she was willing to hand the child over to the other woman rather than see him harmed.

If you are blessed to still have your mother, let her know how much you love and appreciate all that she does or has done for you. I believe a mother's love is the closest thing to God's heart. Child of God, there is nothing you can do to make God stop loving you. Regardless to what he or she may do, a mother will always love her child, because love always covers.

To all godly mothers and grandmothers who care and provide for your families, I salute you! Remember Proverbs 31:30 which states**,"** *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."*Happy Mother's Day!

Elder Shirley Freeman

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