

“MOTHER - HOME BUILDER”

TEXT: *Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*

THESIS: To expound the concept of the woman’s role in the home as suggested by the text.

INTRO.: A. Suppose you watched as a builder planned, purchased materials & began to painstakingly began to build a house. This was not just any house, it was to be his house. You would perhaps just see the mortar, & building materials and a muddy hole in the ground. You can see only what IS, not what WILL BE. But he sees the potential beauty of the finished house. (Every wife & mother needs to learn this secret.)

B. Suppose one day the builder arrives at the site & instead of picking up a hammer, he reaches for the wrecking bar and begins to tear down what he has built. You yell, “Stop! What are you doing?” He says “I’m tearing it all down. It’s no good. I have ruined it. I broke a window over here & I cut a hole too big for the receptacle in that wall, & I knocked a hole in the sheet rock over there. I’ve made too many mistakes & I’m tearing the whole thing down.” (He is going to tear down tens of thousands of dollars of work, for a hundred dollars of needed repairs. While the illustration seems far-fetched among builders of houses, something similar takes place every day when it comes to builders of homes. See the text.)

C. Often we see a sign at a construction site which says: **“Fedena Home Builders.”** Don’t you believe it. They may do a great job at house building, but God has given the duty of home-building to the specialists in the industry, to: **MOTHER - HOME BUILDER.**

TRANS.: In the important business of home-building...

I. THERE MUST BE A PARTNERSHIP:

Ps.127:1a *Except the LORD build the house, thy labour in vain that build it...*

A. The Lord Must Be the Senior Partner:

1. If the Lord is your partner, you have an all-wise, all-powerful Partner Who makes no mistakes.
2. He also will correct your mistakes if you allow Him to control the building process.
 - a. You need to consult your Partner regularly for guidance & help.
 - b. You need to ASK for His help daily & study His Blueprint for success-full home-building.

ILLUS.: His Blueprint, the Bible, contains the instructions for you to build a home which is stable, strong & able to withstand any storms which come. There are very specific instructions for your role as wife & mother. You are told to love your husband & to teach & train your children. There needs to be a constant evaluation of your priorities. God gave you your husband before your children (hopefully!), so he is to come first. He needs your time, input, encouragement & love. Your children need your example, your guidance & instruction.

B. You Are The Junior Partner:

1. You need to rely upon Him & trust Him that He knows better than you, is best for your home.
2. In home-building as in soul-winning, or any other joint venture w/the Lord, we need to be “laborers together w/God,” i.e., we need to be yoked w/Him & have the same burden, the same goals & share the same vision for your family.
3. The first person you are to build up is not your husband nor your children, but yourself, so you can be what your family needs.

ILLUS.: If the “builder” is weak or sick, she will be unable to show up for work & will not be able to progress in her home-building tasks. **“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith...” Jude 20** Just as David **“encouraged himself in the Lord...”** so he could be what his family, friends, soldiers & subjects needed him to be, you too need to use the Scriptures & prayer closet to encourage yourself & build yourself up, so you will not be discouraged or defeated.

II. THERE MUST BE A PLAN:

A. Edify: To Build Up

ILLUS.: Webster's 1828 Dictionary: "BUILD: To frame, construct, & raise, to unite materials into a regular structure...to raise any thing on a support or foundation. In Scripture, to increase & strengthen; to cement & knit together; to settle or establish and preserve."

The Greek word for "edify" literally means home building! *Oikodome* - oikos = home; demo = to build. As Christians we are to "**edify one another**" Rom 14:19 = 1 Thes.5:11 - & there is no place more important than the home to begin.

1. No one is more important for a wife to edify or build up than the man she is married to.
2. Your children should be built & strengthened by you primarily, not just their Sun. Schl. Teacher, Christian school teacher, etc.
3. It takes great wisdom to be a home builder; there is no room for sloppiness or haphazard building or your home will be shabby & precarious & when the storms come, it will fall; your marriage will crumble & your kids will break your heart.

Prov.24:3 *Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:*

4. Wisdom follows God's order & authority in the home with the wife/mother taking her proper place of submission to her husband & teacher to her children.

ILLUS.: Nothing & no one ought to be allowed to usurp the place God has assigned to your husband & children in your life as a wife & mother. No person is more important for you to build up than the man you are married to. No convert you ever win to Christ deserves more time & effort in disciplining than your children.

5. Notice that the opposite of building the home in the text, is tearing it down!

ILLUS.: The primary dangers in home-building are when the wife has friends closer to her than her husband & interests that take precedence over her children (friends, career, hobbies, money, housework). The balance is difficult, but must be maintained at all costs or you are labeled "foolish" by God. The purpose of any leadership position is for building up, not for destroying.

2 Cor.13:10 *Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.*

6. It is possible to tear down instead of build up your home even with your speech.
- 7.

Eph.4:29 *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

ILLUS.: Harsh words, nagging, strife, criticism all tend toward destruction, not to building up.

Prov.21:0 *It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*

Prov.21:19 *It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.*

Prov.27:15 *A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.*

B. Encourage: To Give Confidence, To Inspire

Deut.1:38 *But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.*

1. Notice in the verse above that when they encouraged their leader, it was of benefit to all.
2. When the wife encourages her husband, or her children the benefits will accrue to others of course, but it will also benefit you in the end.
3. Ladies, there are some people living at your house who need your encouragement; God has great plans for them & you can labor w/Him to help them reach their potential.

ILLUS.: Henry Ford said that the ability to encourage others is one of life's finest assets. At the beginning of his career young Ford was criticized & ridiculed for his designs of motor cars, most "experts" of that day thought that electric carriages would become the passenger vehicles of the future. At a dinner where the great inventor Thomas Edison was present, Ford began explaining his engine to men near him. Edison eavesdropped on the conversation & move closer & asked Ford to make a sketch. When the crude drawing was complete, Edison studied it & then banged his fist on the table: "Young man, that's the thing! You have it!" Years later, Ford recalled, "The thump of Edison's fist upon the table was worth worlds to me."

C. Exhort: To Incite to Good Deeds:

1. The word exhort looks to the future, in contrast w/comfort which looks to the past; it means to embolden, advise, to incite by words to a good deed.
2. Your word of exhortation to your husband may inspire him to pursue God's will for his life, or to give him the confidence to move on a decision he has wrestled with. (Women love security & hate change, so they often pour cold water on their husband's plans, if it will inconvenience them.)
3. Your word of exhortation to your children may counter the ridicule of their peers & propel them to achieve what would otherwise not be tried.

ILLUS.: Someone said that when Robt. Moffatt was saved, a whole continent was added to the Kingdom of God. Moffatt said it was all because of a mother's kiss. As a young man leaving home, his mother walked with him & when she could go no further, she said, "Robert, promise me something." "What?" the boy asked. "I want you to promise me something you can easily do," she said. "You are going out into a wicked world. Begin every day w/God. Close every day w/God." Then she kissed him. Moffatt insisted that that kiss made him a missionary. His mother knew the art of exhortation, & God used it in a mighty way in her son's life.

4. Wives & mothers are often the barometer of the emotional atmosphere of a home ("If momma ain't happy, ain't NOBODY happy!").
5. Daddy may be the head of the home, but it is mother who is the heart of the home.

QUOTE: Spurgeon said: "The word HOME sounds like poetry to me. It doesn't matter if it is a cottage or mansion, home is home be it ever so homely. There is no place on earth like it. The sparrows sweetly chirp & the swallows twitter around the chosen spot which is our joy & rest. Every bird loves its own nest. The owl thinks the old ruins the best spot under the moon. The fox is of the opinion that his hole in the hill is remarkably cozy. The way home is the best bit of road in the country. I like to see the smoke from my own chimney better than the fire on another man's hearth. When you go out, friends do their best, but still it is not home. 'Make yourself at home,' they say. Everybody knows that to feel at home is to feel at ease. Why, at home you are at home, & what more could you want?" Isn't that just what we ought to be working for in our own homes?

CONCL.: Building a house takes time; building a home takes a lifetime. *"Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."*

Ladies, you are in the Home Building business.