

MRS. UNIVERSE



TEXT: *Genesis 1: 26-28 Gen. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Genesis 3:20 *And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

INTRO.: A. God created the universe. After the planets and galaxies were in place, the earth was adorned. Plants and flowers were blooming, fruit trees were producing, the animals, birds and fish were awaiting man's arrival. *Then God created Adam.* But one last stroke on His masterpiece was missing. Adam was lonely. He had no one with whom to share the glorious sunsets, the choirs of the birds, the fellowship of his furry and feathered creatures, the canopy of the beautiful heavens. With all the beauty of God's pristine creation something was missing. With all its beauty all was cold and lonely for Adam. Even God said: **"It is not good that the man should be alone..."**

B. The perfection of Eden did not give to Adam what he needed, so God created **Mrs. Universe!** The flowers suddenly became more fragrant, the birds' songs were more melodious, the fruit seemed sweeter, the sunsets more spectacular. But even now something was lacking. It is the laughter of children. God's perfect plan included not just a husband and wife, but also their offspring. Adam must become **"daddy"** and Eve would become the **"mother of all living"**. **Gen. 3:20** God's creation included a command: **"be fruitful and multiply..."** ***Mrs. Universe must become "mommy"!*** *In a real sense a wife and mother is still a **Mrs. Universe!***

I. THE POWER OF MOTHERHOOD:

QUOTE: Someone has said that *"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."*

A. In Prayer:

1. Several mothers in the Bible influenced history because of their prayers for their children.
 - a. Think of **Mother Jochebed** as she placed her baby boy in the crocodile infested waters...**baby Moses** – the great leader of Israel!
 - b. Think of **Mother Hannah**, unable to have children, praying fervently in the **great prophet Samuel**.

ILLIUS.: **Mother Susanna Wesley** prayed one hour each day alone with God in her room for her 19 children. God heard her and gave her 2 sons who brought revival to the nation of England while France was bathed in a blood bath and ghastly revolution.

NOTE: The world needs praying mothers more than it needs a conservative President, tax relief, an effective vaccine for COVID, or even nuclear disarmament!

ILLUS.: Mrs. C. I. Scofield died in childbirth. Her dying prayer was that her baby boy might become a Gospel preacher. Only after he grew up, got saved and called to preach was he told of his mother's prayer.

B. In Influence:

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.

I came again when days were past,
The form I gave it still it bore,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
I could change that form no more

I took a piece of living clay,
And gently molded it day by day,
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielded heart.

I came again when days were gone.
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore,
And I could change it never more.
(Author Unknown)

ILLUS.: Jack Hyles wrote: "Woman can make Eden a paradise if she chooses or she can curse everything in it as she did. She can ruin a nation like **Jezebel** or change her house into a church as did **Priscilla**...she can fill the house with **Mary's** ointment, or she can fill it with **Michal's** hatred. She can save a nation as **Esther** or like **Jezebel** can destroy one."

1. Who would have believed that the lovely **Mrs. Universe** of Eden would choose sin over obedience and plunge the race of mankind into destruction?
2. But who can forget that out of her would come **Queen Sarah**, Abraham's wife & Isaac's mother, courageous **Deborah**, the warrior Judge who led Israel to victory in the darkest period of its history.
3. Who can fail to praise God that Eve's future would produce the beautiful **Queen Esther** who saved the nation from extermination?

NOTE: A mother can raise or ruin her nations, home, husband, or children. In a mother's loveliness is potential for tragedy. In her joy is the possibility of sorrow. In her generosity is the prospect for selflessness. She can hate as well as love, as **Michal** (David's sinful spouse). She can be as tender as Jesus' Mother **Mary**, or as terrible as **Athaliah**, who killed her own grandchildren for selfish ambition.

II. THE POTENTIAL OF MOTHERHOOD:

A. Grace:

1. No creature of God has the capacity for grace and generosity, love and selflessness as a Mother.

ILLUS.: The French sculptor, Bartholdi, needed a model for the face of the Statue of Liberty. At first he searched for models with the right features and plumbed the volumes of history for heroines, but finally chose as a model for his masterpiece...*his own mother!*

2. Ladies, you have in your bosom the grace of **Lydia**, the loyalty of **Sarah**, the loveliness of **Rachel**, the tenderness of **Mary**, the servitude of **Martha**, the love of **Jochebed** and the devotion of **Lois**.

B. Disgrace:

1. In that same breast is the disobedience of **Eve**, the wickedness of **Jezebel**, the murder of **Athaliah**, the lust of **Rahab**, and the hatred of **Herodias**.
2. You can recapture the innocence of **Mrs. Universe** before the fall or reenact her disobedience during the fall.
 - a. Eve's first 2 children, Cain and Abel, are examples of the old and new natures.
 - b. They reveal the grace and disgrace possible to **MRS. UNIVERSE** & to all of us since.

III. THE PAIN OF MOTHERHOOD:

A. Physical:

Gen. 3:16 *Unto the woman he (God) said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

1. **MRS UNIVERSE** plunged the race into sin and her daughters and sons have reaped the harvest of pain ever since.
2. Before the fall there were no labor pains and after sin everything involved labor and pain...even childbirth, though there is joy mixed with that pain.

John 16:20-22 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.*

B. Emotional:

1. If she is anything, a woman is an emotional creature.
2. She experiences greater heights of joy and greater depths of sorrow than her husband.
 - a. Her children's pain is her pain and their joy is hers, their achievements good or bad, are hers as well.
 - b. The godly, feminine, prayerful mother can claim the promise of Prov. 11:28 – "*her children arise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her*" and this is the cure for the pain of motherhood.

CONCL.: **MRS. UNIVERSE** proudly wore her crown, till she lost it to sin. But any mother today can wear the Crown of Motherhood proudly if she prays for and molds her children for the Lord, if she walks in grace and not disgrace, and if she adopts the principles of biblical motherhood. America's greatness, our nation's greatness, your homes greatness rises or falls on those wonderful, frustrating, *gracious*, sinful, *prayerful*, nagging, *loving*, balking and *spiritual, sweet* and inconsistent people called **mothers!**

What kind of mother (or father!) or potential mother or father are you or will you be?!

Of course, you can change your future now. If you are saved, yield to God's Holy Spirit and let Him transform you. If you are not saved simply trust in what God's Son did for you when He died in your place and shed His sinless blood for YOU.

