

The Highest Calling

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Someone once said, "Motherhood is the highest calling a woman can have. Not that it is the only important thing a woman can do with her life, mind you. But that it is a rich and wonderful calling. My mother lived a full life, but she always gave me the sense that she enjoyed me. And that's made an enormous difference in my life."

I don't know about you, but when I read that quote, it reassured me that being a Mommy was an important task and one of which I could be proud.

It's not an easy job being a Mommy of an almost three year old and a 19 month old. Whether you are employed or stay at home; whether you have one baby or a family of ten; you will probably agree with me that being a Mommy is both the most wonderful thing you have ever done and also the most predictable, frustrating, demanding and exhausting thing. Some days, I wonder about my sanity (or insanity); I realize I am losing vocabulary skills as I struggle talking to adults (which on some days, I have gone the entire day without seeing one); and I sometimes get bored playing with Legos and Lincoln Logs. Often new toys are more for MY benefit than my children's.

I am admitting to the world, that I have days of self-doubt: days when I wonder if what I am doing is really valuable. Maybe someone who is more patient, kid-loving, and who is oozing with kindness and gentleness, could do a better job than me. Am I alone, or have you thought this also? That maybe blowing noses, changing poopey diapers, mopping up spills on the kitchen floor again, and again, and handling arguments over who gets the toys, could be traded in on something a little more glamorous (it wouldn't have to be much!).

Then, I read my Bible and am comforted by what God thinks of me and HIS system of value He places upon me. I love what Elizabeth says when she sees Mary, pregnant with baby Jesus in Luke 1:42, "In a loud voice she exclaimed, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you bear!' That is how we should see one another. Blessed are YOU, how absolutely wonderful it is, that you are expecting a child! Blessed are YOU, how awesome it is, that you get the privilege of being a Mom to a child! Why do we not celebrate motherhood more? How blessed you are to have become a mother. In Psalm 127:3, God says, "Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a reward." I named my firstborn, Samuel, because I felt like Hannah in the Bible when she got pregnant. She was so happy that God answered her prayer for a child, she named her son Samuel,

which means "Gift from God." And that is how I look at my son. He and every child born is a miracle of God. How wonderful it is to be a Mommy!

Although we may encounter a day, or week, when we feel more frazzled than the picturesque view we may have in our minds of motherhood (Carol Brady, Shirley Partridge, Marion Cunningham perhaps?) do not despair. Each day may bring new challenges, or maybe the same, boring ones! The silver lining is to know that mothering our child, like no one else can, is our way of serving God. By serving and obeying God, we can find true contentment and satisfaction. It's a peace like no other when you know you are doing God's will.

Barbara Bush says in her book, entitled, *Mastering Motherhood*, "Despite all the cultural pressure to the contrary, a woman's primary calling from God is 'to love her husband and children, to be domestic (to be fond of things pertaining to the family or home).'" Elisa Morgan writes, "Mothering Matters. And if we invest ourselves in the formative years when a child is dependent upon parents for his or her development, we will reap the benefits later in life with the joy of living with a more secure and independent child."

The key to mothering is to see it through God's eyes. He thinks it IS an important task for us as parents to teach our children about how to love Him and obey His words. In Deuteronomy 6:5-7, God says to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and will all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Decide to make it a priority in your life to teach your children about God and His Words. If you do, suddenly, it becomes a very important responsibility to be a mommy. Beginning early in their lives, you are setting your little ones on a course to know and love God. You are forming their minds and hearts to desire to do right, to obey God, and to be kind and respectful to others. Sounds pretty important, doesn't it?

Mothering DOES matter. It is a valuable, high calling and you should be honored and esteemed to be called "Mommy." I know I am.