

**MOM**  
**John 19:25b-27 May 8, 2011**  
**Confirmation / Mother's Day**

**I. MOM – I want to introduce you to MOM.**

**A. This is MOM, the Manual on the Ministry.**

1. It provides the guidelines for all that affects clergy.
2. It has exciting things in it like:
  - a) The process for a student becoming ordained.
  - b) The process for privilege of call and dual standing.
  - c) The rules and process for a fitness review and,
  - d) Guidelines for the operations of the Committee on the Ministry.
3. MOM is as exciting as kissing your grandmother.
4. But if you don't pay attention to MOM, life will become chaos.
5. I want to say that again,  
"If you don't pay attention to MOM, life will become chaos."

6. I wanted say it again, because that is my perfect segue into where we are headed with this sermon; namely, if you don't pay attention to your Mother, life will become chaos."
- B. Of course it's not just Mom, it's also Dad, and sometimes it's Grandma and Grandpa, but since it's Mom's day we'll let Mom represent all that familial authority.
- II. Have you ever wondered, what Jesus would have been like if he had had different parents?
- A. How much of who Jesus became was the result of the parenting that Jesus received?
  - B. It's a little like, what if Superman would have had uncaring, self centered parents?
    1. What if Bonnie and Clyde would have discovered the baby who fell to earth from the Planet Krypton?
    2. What if Jeffrey Dahmer would have been his father?
  - C. As it is, the speculation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century about what Jesus was like as a child doesn't make him the most model child. Here's a few examples from the Infancy

**Gospel of Thomas, remembering of course, that these are 2<sup>nd</sup> century gospel speculations, not 1<sup>st</sup> century gospel truth.**

1. In one story the boy Jesus breaks the Sabbath law, something he was also famous for as an adult, by forming some clay birds on the sabbath.
  - a) When his father was told about it, Joseph came to scold his son, but when Joseph brings the matter up, the child Jesus claps his hands bringing the birds to life and they fly away. Jesus' smart-alecky, disrespectful, response to his father was, "What birds?"  
Alright -- so what happened to honoring your parents?
  - b) Then one of the small boys that had been playing with Jesus messes up the pool of water that Jesus had made to mold the birds.  
Jesus response was to tell the boy that he was an evil fool and that he would be "withered like a tree, and shalt not bear leaves, neither root, nor fruit.  
Immediately, the young boy became like a withered up old man.

- c) In another story a young playmate bumps into Jesus and Jesus tells the boy, "Thou shalt not finish thy course," and immediately the boy dies.
  - d) In another story a teacher is angered by one of Jesus' know it all responses and smacked him on the back of the head. That was a mistake. Jesus cursed him and the teacher fell down dead.
  - e) Of course, mind you that by the end, all the people that Jesus withered and killed were all restored.
  - f) But clearly it was believed that Jesus had a bit of a learning curve to deal with in becoming the man who healed the sick, cured the lame, feed the hungry, advocated for the poor and died on a cross.
- D. I just have to wonder if Jesus would have grown up to be the compassionate, caring, all inclusive man he became without the guidance of his parents.
- E. Clearly, somewhere along the way, someone taught him one of the most important

lessons of childhood;  
namely, how to play nice.

III. Without a doubt parenting has to be **the hardest job in the world** – the hardest job in the world **to do well**.

A. In college I had a philosophy teacher, who was also a Jazz guitarist, and he once commented that guitar is probably the easiest instrument to learn to play poorly and the hardest instrument to learn to play well.

B. Parenting is the same way.  
It is the easiest job in the world.  
We pretty much let anybody who can have sex have a go at it.

1. No training.
2. In fact, no edgycation **at all** is required;  
**ZIP, nada -- nothing.**
3. In fact, there are **no** requirements.
4. No license needed.
5. No test of proficiency.

C. But it is the hardest job in the world to do well.

1. Let me tell you -- you can spend all your time and money on your kids, infuse them with love, and teach them values of honesty, and justice and mercy and get Masters degrees in education and bone up on child psychology and adolescent behavior and childhood illnesses and still there are no guarantees that they won't just decide to totally rebel and go in a diametrically opposed direction. I repeat -- There's no guarantees that even with your best efforts it will all come out right.
  2. But the odds are a lot better.
  3. You know if I was to go to Vegas and sit down at a poker table without study and practice and preparation, and just depend upon luck to win – I would be a total fool just waiting to be separated from my money.
  4. Yet, that is just exactly what way too many parents do when it comes to parenting.
- D. But let me tell you that the job has become even harder, extremely harder, since we now live in a society, culture, economy, where to pay for the kids, both parents pretty much have to work outside the home and for companies that make old Scrooge look caring and compassionate.**

- E. And here I'd like to throw in a side note. I'd like to dedicate this sermon to Maxine Morgan. Maxine died about a year ago. She was the angel sent from God that we were so incredibly lucky to find. She was the person that Shelly and I left our kids with from 3 months old to 6, 7 years old. She had as much to do with our kid's upbringing and early values as we did. She was the one we dumped our kids with so we could both work; do our jobs.

IV. But I hope we all realize that there is not a job anywhere in the world that is more important than being a parent.

- A. Not a single job anywhere is more important;  
not a Fortune 500 CEO,  
not even the Commander and Chief of the most powerful nation the world has ever seen.
1. Without Obama's mother, he wouldn't be where he is now.
  2. He would not have the values and worldview that got him elected.

3. Yeah, Beck and Trump can blame her.
- B. The future of this nation more than anything else, will be determined by parents and how well they do their job.
- V. Certainly one of the most important things that parents can do is communicate God's law to their kids.
- A. Basically those "playing nice" rules,
    1. Don't hurt others.
    2. Don't steal from others.
    3. Don't lie.
  - B. And of course we all know the commandment about honoring your father and your mother.
  - C. You remember that part don't you?  
"Honor your father and your mother."
  - D. But how many of you remember how that verse ends?

**Honor your father and your mother,**  
so that your days may be long in the land that the HOLY ONE your God is giving you.

- E. This is not just about honoring your ancestors, it's about honoring the role of parents; the job of parenting.
  - F. This commandment is telling us to honor parenting;  
**do an honorable job of parenting, or there is no future.**
  - G. The future of this nation, possibly our species, depends on how good of a job parents do raising their kids.
- VI. According to the Gospel of John the very last thing Jesus did before he died, was to give honor to the one who brought him up to be who he was; his mother.
- A. As I said at the beginning –  
“If you don't pay attention to MOM, life will become chaos.”
  - B. To which we must add,  
“If you don't pay attention to being MOM, a parent, life will become chaos.”
  - C. Being a Mom, or a Dad, is the most important thing you will have ever done, or ever will do.

- D. And for some people who wisely see that they may not be cut out for it; the most important thing they can do is to **not** become parents.
- E. Parenting is not a right, it is not an obligation, it is not a privilege; parenting is a divine calling – to which the highest of honors must be applied.
- AMEN.