

**The Challenges
of Motherhood
Matthew 15:21-28**

Can We Put a Price on Motherhood?

Salary.Com(2018)

Motherly Duties Were Broken Down Into Average Time Spent and Their Average Salaries

Day Care Center Teacher

Psychologist

CEO

Cook

Housekeeper

Laundry Machine Operator

Computer Operator

Facilities Manager

Janitor

Van Driver

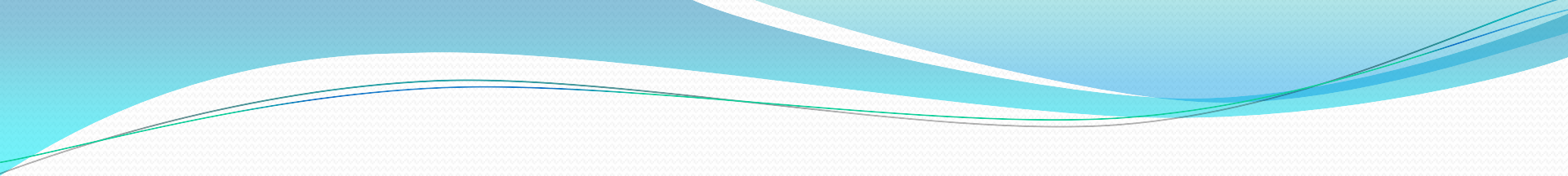
Trying to put a price tag on a priceless job!

How much would you pay to outsource these activities?

Salary.com

“Pricing a Priceless Job”

- The average median salary of a stay at home mom in 2018 should be \$162,581 (based on a 40-hour work week and 90+ hours of overtime)
- The average working mom’s annual salary, 2016 (just for the mom role) should be \$90,223 based on 40 hours of mothering duties (\$52,685 base salary and 19 hours of overtime per week, accounting for the extra \$37,538)

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- Mothering is a challenge because things at home aren't always smooth
 - Many mothers don't live the "fantasy life" of a loving, Godly husband who works for a living with children who are well behaved and "never seriously ill"
 - I would dare say that real Christian mothers have *defining moments (faith-building)*, when things go out of control or are out of their hands

This Story Gives Significant Insight into the Struggles of a Mother!

- This mother's daughter was experiencing a hardship that was out of the mother's control!

Verse 23 says, Her Daughter Was Overcome By An Evil Spirit (medical or spiritual)

- Have you experienced a child that wouldn't listen to reason?
- *"Caught up"* in worldly affairs with worldly people
- Somebody else was *"doing the thinking for them,"* but you are still *"writing the checks, and using your credit cards!"*

What Did This Woman Do?

She Went To Jesus!

#1 This Mother Passed the Test of Divine Silence

Matthew 15:23

“But He answered her not a word”

- Has God ever been silent when you prayed?
- If you pray consistently, He has (after all, He is not *an A.T.M.*)
- God’s silence is not His neglect
- One of God’s character traits (patience) is developed in us by His silence during our storms
- God’s timetable is not ours (Isaiah 55:8-9)
God is both “nearsighted and farsighted”
Remember, Jesus’ episode with her **INCREASED HER FAITH** (*with him it was not just about the child being healed*)

#2 She Passed the Test of Rejection and Discouragement

Verse 23, “*...And His disciples came and urged Him saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”*”

- She was annoying the spiritual disciples **but not Jesus**

Mothers, how many times have you had to go again and again to the doctor until your child’s problem or your problem was solved (even to the doctor’s annoyance)?

- Remember that of some God’s greatest Bible heroes have been catapulted to greatness *after news of discouragement!*

(Jonah, Ruth, Hezekiah)

Jesus' Answer To The Disciples Must Have Dashed Her Spirit

Verse 24

“...I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

- He reminds them of His priorities in His mission
- But He does not send her away
- “How much does she want this blessing?”
- “How faithful does she think I am?”
- “How faithful is she?”
- “How faithful are you?”
- “Are you willing to glorify me, come what may?”
- The Bible says, *“Then she came and worshipped Him saying Lord help me!”*, *“Can a gentile get a blessing?”*

#3 She Passed the Test

of Humility

Verse 26

“.. It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

- For many of us, the request would have ended right there, ***“Who does he think he is, calling me a dog?!”***
“I thought He was kind, meek and gentle!”
- If that had been our personality, our child never would have been healed
Some behavioral problems our children have right now, started with our imprint (our laziness, temper, attitude, lack of patience)
- Jesus, in this text, used a common term at that time (dog), that Jews used to refer to Gentiles (He was testing her faith)
- This mother realized she was at God’s mercy, she had no leverage, nothing to impress God with, no bargaining chip; she was vulnerable

***When Standing Before God,
That’s Not A Bad Place To Be!***

Verses 26-27

“But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

And she said (she was quick, msg.), “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master’s table.”

- While she believed that God’s covenant with the Israelites made them first priority, surely, a sovereign God has a crumb or two for others of His creation who believe in Him.

“Take Me To The King”

by Tamela Mann

*Take me to the king
I don't have much to bring
My heart is torn in pieces
It's my offer-ing
Take me to the king*

*....Lay me at the throne
Leave me there alone
To gaze upon your glory
And sing to you this song
Please take me to the king*

The Truth Is, *Idealized* Motherhood is Inaccurate for Most in Our Culture and in Scripture

- Ruth was childless and widowed at a young age (her marriage was only ten years)
- Rachel, Hannah, and Sarah were infertile at a young age
- Both Eve and Mother Mary lost sons under terrible circumstances

Our Churches are Full of Mothers Like Those We See in Scripture

- Motherhood deferred due to later childbearing
- Motherhood disrupted by divorce or death of the father
- Motherhood lost by infant/child death or miscarriage
- Motherhood unachieved due to infertility or undesired singleness

My Point Is:

- Our culture does have wonderful families with strong marriages and happy children
- But, on the other hand, there is not a *one size fits all* journey of womanhood.

EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT!

- Therefore we as a church must be sensitive to one another and a source of strength to support each mother as they live out the call that God has placed before them

What Is True of Mothers Is True of Us All

- We often carry the weight of the world on our shoulders
- Many times in life, we are in the middle of a test of our faith, not the conclusion of it
- So let's pray for each other, and encourage one another to seek after God to the end

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38