


**A MOTHER OF
SACRIFICE
2 SAMUEL 21:1-13**

OBSERVATIONS

- Someone has said that, *“The easiest part of motherhood is giving birth, the hardest part is showing up for it each day.”*
 - There will be many Mother’s Day cards given out today, but what they are really trying to say is *“Thanks for showing up.”*
 - The sad thing today is that so many are not showing up
 - Grandmother shows up in many cases (I never met my best friend’s mother from grade school through medical school, where he graduated). His Grandmother was his functioning mother.
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I WANT TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT A MOTHER MOSTLY FORGOTTEN IN SCRIPTURE

- Her name is Rizpah (Most of us know about Hannah, Ruth, Naomi, Mary, Rachel, and Elizabeth)
- In this story, a famine had been destroying the land of Israel for 3 years now, and David the king inquired of the Lord, “*WHY!*”
- When our lives change for the worse, ask God (the scriptures) “*WHY!*” “*Is it me?*” *Isaiah 59:1-2; Isaiah 55:7*
- However, there are times when an answer is not given, like in Job’s case, but *trust in spite of ignorance* is what God is looking for; Job 13:15

OBSERVATIONS

- David inquired of the Lord, “Why,” and God revealed that the actions of King Saul, his predecessor, toward the Gibeonites was the problem
- Israel had made a covenant or promise to protect the Gibeonite people (Joshua 9), but King Saul had broken it, wiping out a nation to impress the Israelite people
- David was the king now, and asked the remaining Gibeonites, how he could make things right
- The Gibeonites requested that, since King Saul destroyed their civilization and took their land, to let them have seven of his descendants to hang openly, publicly, and shamefully; and it was done.

OBSERVATIONS

- Now the seven sons of Saul included the two sons of Rizpah, and the five sons of Merab, Saul's eldest daughter
- In a broken world, children many times have to pay for the sinful consequences of their parents' mistakes and blunders.
- These sons suffered a public hanging because of daddy's sins! (Aborted children pay; aborted families pay)
- Men beware, the laws of sowing and reaping apply here; **We often reap more than we sow**;
Galatians 6:7-8



- **2 Samuel 21:10** gives us one of the most sacrificial examples of devotion, of any person in the Bible
- Rizpah could not save her two sons from death, but she takes a burlap (sackcloth) sack, and spreads it out on a large rock for herself, and guards her son's bodies, *“From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals at night”*

- **Here is a childless mother, who also is a widow, obviously in a vulnerable position in status, saving her children's bodies from disgrace**
- **She is literally refusing to have their bodies picked apart by jackals and vultures, by fending the animals off herself**
- **She couldn't remove her sons (it was against the law), but she did what she could.**

What do we learn?



#1 RIZPAH WAS A MOTHER OF PREFERENCE

- She preferred her children over the comforts of being at her own home (child centered rather than self centered)
- She would rather die than let some wild beast have the corpses of her sons (that's why she's in scripture)
- There are “wild beasts and vultures,” who want to pick over your children today while they live (peer pressure, drug and sex experimentation, laziness)
- Good mothers contend with the foes of their children (never tamper with a mother bear's cub)

- **It's not comfortable sometimes where mothers have to “camp out” for their children (like Rizpah)**

- **Neither society nor a mother's children may be happy with a mother's presence:**

At School,

At Practices

At PTA meetings

At Individual

Conferences

At Church



#2 RIZPAH WAS A MOTHER OF PERSEVERANCE

- According to the Bible she held a one-woman vigil, guarding her sons, *“From the beginning of the harvest till the rains poured down from the heavens on the bodies....”*

(Many commentators say that this was from April to October in our present calculations)

- When David heard about her personal sacrifice on behalf of her sons, he ordered all the bodies to be gathered up and given a proper burial in their grandfather’s tomb. Then God ended the famine in the land

OBSERVATIONS

- **Mothers, when it comes to perseverance for your children; how persistent, how dedicated, how diligent are you willing to be?**
- **Some mothers favor their careers over their children. There our children are, “*in the way!*”**
- **Others defer their careers for their children**
- **Still, others, seek their careers while managing their children (juggling)**

DOESN'T THIS STORY REMIND YOU OF ANOTHER VIGIL?

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother.”

John 19:25

- **Mary recognized her son's hour of need on the cross**
- **She, too, was in a dangerous place with no authority**
- **She was as near to Him as she was allowed to go**
- **Oh, how Mary's heart must have hurt, but she stayed with Him!**
- **We need loyal mothers, not loyal in approving of our sins, but to be with us during times of life's difficulties**

LIKE RIZPAH and MARY!

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Luke 13:3

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38