

## Mother's Heart (2 Samuel 21:7-14)

Christianity emphasizes: To honor parents. Bible shows very strong lessons regarding it. **“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 5:16).** It says that rewards are guaranteed but punishment follows severely if not. **“If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, (Deut 21:18) “Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid (Deuteronomy 21:21) “Cursed is anyone who dishonors their father or mother.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!” (Deuteronomy 27:16)**

After Exodus from slavery in Egypt, God gave ten commandments to Israelites. Two categories in ten commandments: the first thru fourth are about loving God, the fifth thru tenth are about loving neighbor (between people). To honor own mother and father is the fifth commandment. God says there will be punishment if we do not keep these commandments but promised rewards if we keep the fifth commandment (Honor parents) To parents, loving own children is basic but for children, honoring parents is not easy. This is the reason that God promised long life and blessing to one who honor own father and mother.

Today's verses show the mother's love who lost her own sons. During the reign of David, there was a famine for three years; so David sought the face of the Lord and realized that it is on account of Saul; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death. (Joshua made treaty of peace between Gibeonites and Israelites when conquering the land but it was broken by Saul). When king David find out the reason, He asked Gibeonites. **“How shall I make atonement so that you will bless the Lord's inheritance?** They answered: **“As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and their bodies exposed before the Lord at Gibeah of Saul—the Lord's chosen one”** David accepted and handed seven of descendants of Saul to Gibeonites, who killed them and exposed their bodies on a hill. Rizpah who lost her sons because of Saul took sackcloth and spread it out on a rock. 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 by night. When David was told what Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan and buried it in the tomb. After that, God answered prayers on behalf of the land.

Characteristics of mother's love.

**1.Unconditional Love** Mother's love is close to God's love. Rizpah stayed for six months near to bodies of her sons and put up suffering which resembles love of Jesus who died on cross for our sins to shows God's love. Giving only son to save us from sin is unconditional love. **“I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father (Psalms 2:7) Through Jesus on the Cross, God gave us salvation. Whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:29)**

**2) Be with children's suffering together** Mother's love receives children's suffering as own. Rizpah shared her son's shame, suffering as herself. Nothing will stop mother's love in any circumstances.

**3) Giving own life** Rizpah kept her sons bodies from birds and wild animals for six months with her life. Mother will sacrifice her life for children.

**4) Pray for children** Rizpah might kept praying for six months to solve resentment of her sons desperately.

On this Mother's Day, we should remember our parents and honor them. Two debt to parents: Giving birth and raising us. Our parents gave birth and raised us, we should not forget their love. We live our life with parents' help, support. We should give thanks and remember own parents' favor to us. We should honor own parents if not, we are not qualified to serve our God. God says obey and honor our parents so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. There is no false in God's Words. Obey and honor parents. We will reap what we sow. When we serve our parents sincerely, we will be treated by our children too.