

Intro: I love Antique Shops. Well, really more junk shops than Antique shops. I can spend hours wandering...looking Couple years ago returning from vacation, negotiated a stop at one (have to work at it...not Darlene's favorite) Wandering through saw something that I purchased...5, 6 \$ Would have paid 500! Why so much? Reminds me of my mother. One just like it sat on window sill above the kitchen sink when I was a kid. Watch/rings

My mom is gone...she passed years ago, but when I was recently in Fla, I did what I always do...drive around...stopped site Every single person in this room has one thing in common. We all had a mother. (Even if you don't know...still true) They hold a very special place in our hearts. Relationship that is like no other.

Today I want to talk with you about that...but...bear with me...We are going to get there...take the long way around!
When we get there though...It will be worth it!

John 6:1-15

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1. The Importance of Children Is Often Underestimated.

Jn 6:8-9

- Probably young: Little boy, child, (unlikely as old as a teen) 5-10 or so
- Like many small children, not seen as important: 3 of 4 Gospel authors don't record the detail of the boy!
- Even when his meal is considered, not seen as significant in the face of the need (5 inferior loaves, 2 fish) how far? Note though: W/O the little boy...and without his lunch...the story is TOTALLY different!
- Children are incredibly important...Then...and Now!
Recent statistic from Nazarene Research Center...Asking Christians WHEN they came to know Jesus 85% between 4 and 14!

APPLIC: We (Parents and Church, should do EVERYTHING we can to invest in the spiritual development of children If 85% come to Christ by age 14...we should pour our resources into that area of ministry!
We should value, prioritize and resource children ministry, and youth ministry
I feel very strongly about it...so much so that I'm taking a week....Spend it with 5 middle school students

2. The Story Would Be Entirely Different Without A Mother At Work.

Mt 14:21

(A little holy imagination...but I don't think I'm stretching things too far)

- At his age it is unlikely that he is there on his own. Parents, probably mother (5000 men + women and children)
- He had lunch with him. He probably didn't pack it himself! Who packed it?
- Parents (probably including mom) made sure the boy was where Jesus was!
- Story is entirely different if the little boy isn't there...or if he doesn't have lunch!
- Someone taught him to give! What is one of the very first words our kids learn? (MINE!)

APPLIC: Two things that I want to encourage you as Parents, esp Mom's to think about

1. Not a single child got here today by themselves. Everyone had someone bring them!
Your children are not going to get the spiritual background they need and deserve without you making sure.
2. You as parents (mom) need to make sure your children are where Jesus is working
There is NO place more important than Church! (Jesus is here!) Sports, Dance, Friends, Family
Look at this visual importance of what we do...and how important it is! 40...AWANA: 80!
You can't guarantee that they will love Jesus...follow him...become the kind of person that will share their lunch

3. As Is Often The Case A Mothers Role Is Often Overlooked!?"

Jn 6:1-15

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| • Her role is often unspoken | She never shows up in this story | |
| • Her importance is often not understood | She got him there! | Carpool |
| • Her actions are often underappreciated | Who packed the lunch? | Kids would starve! |
| • Her spiritual impact cannot be calculated | 2 Tim 1:5 | Timothy's rolemodel |
| • God cherishes and trusts you in secret | Lk 1:26 | First to know of birth |
| • God's trust often comes with a price | Lk 2:34-35 | Simeon |
| • Jesus loves mothers in a special way | Jn 19:25-27 | Sword pierce sol
Words from Cross |

APPLIC: Mothers hold a special place in the work of God

CONCL:

Today mom's I want you to leave encouraged. I want you to know how much God values you...and we value you If your mom is still with you...Let me encourage you to take the opportunity today to express to her your love

- Biological mom
- Adopted mom
- Surrogate mom
- Wife of your children
- Mom you know is struggling today for whatever reason

Let them know you love them...and are praying for them