CHERISH THE MOMENT

(Selected Scriptures)
(A Mother's Day Message)
5/10/02

Cherish the moments you have with your children!

If you don't make the most of your moments, your precious time will flee away and you will say...

1. I wish I had <u>spent MORE TIME</u> with my children

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
Ps 90:12 - So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

2. I wish I had <u>TAUGHT GOD'S WORD</u> to my children more

Deut.6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

3. I wish I had <u>LOVINGLY DISCIPLINED</u> my children more

Pr 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early).

4. I wish I had <u>LAUGHED & PLAYED</u> with my children more

Pr 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

5. I wish I had <u>SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE</u> for my children more

2Ti 1:5 ... I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6. I wish I had <u>SHELTERED</u> my children more

Ro 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

7. I wish I had <u>PRAYED</u> for my children more

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INTRODUCTION:

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU USE TIME (REDEEM YOUR TIME (Eph.5:16)

Cp. Col. 4:5 - "Walk in wisdom toward then that are without, redeeming the time."

A. KNOW ITS WORTH.

1. Time is valuable (precious)

"Redeem" = buy out; used of a market place; making the most of (ILLUS: taking advantage of an unbelievable sale at the store)

Don't lose it--use it.
Don't waste it--invest it
Don't neglect it--make the most of it!

2. Time is irreplaceable.

"Time" - 3 Greek words:

	1.	aion	- life span, long time, eternity
	2.	kronos	- a period of time
***	3.	kairos	- a point of time, a specific moment of time, an opportunity

(Cp. Gal. 6:10 - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto those who are of the household of faith.")

Can never go back (EX: once you hit your 20's, can never be a teenager again)

Time cannot be saved (it's either spent wisely or wasted)

Three things never return: 1) the spoken word; 2) the past life; 3) the neglected opportunity.

Life is short (too brief to neglect our families).

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1. I wish I had <u>spent MORE TIME</u> with my children

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Ps 90:12 - So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

If, as God's Word declares, the average life-span is "three-score and ten" (or seventy years), then I've over half-way there! To number my days (from the age 37), leaves me with approximately 33 more years! That's a mere 396 months or 1,924 weeks!

And assuming that my children will go off to college at the age of 18, I only have 6 more years with my oldest daughter, Katie (that's a mere 72 months or 312 weeks or 2,190 days! (which isn't a lot! It seems like yesterday we were staring into a cradle!)

Number your days with your children, Moms. How many do you have left?

Life is about <u>relationships</u> (not things). It takes <u>time</u> to get to know your kids (do you know their likes and dislikes, goals and ambitions, talents and gifts, etc.?)

Many parents claim that they can't give their kids a great quantity of time, so they try to replace it with "quality time."

Children do <u>not</u> make a distinction between quality time and quantity time. (to a child, all the time you spend with them is quality time).

Many Christian moms are sacrificing their children on the altar of their mom's career pursuits.

Married moms, consider the lofty career of a "homemaker"!

Married moms are supposed to be "keepers (workers [*ergon*]) at home."

--Spending time <u>talking</u>
--Spending time <u>alone</u> (EX: take turns bringing one at a time for breakfast, fishing, shopping or running errands)
--Going on <u>vacations</u>
--Going to the <u>park</u>

2. I wish I had TAUGHT GOD'S WORD to my children more

Deut.6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Our children are like walking camcorders (they record everything they see and hear from infancy through adolescence).

Children, because their minds are generally not cluttered with the cares of this life or the sinful preoccupations of adults, are better equipped to learn, to soak in information (ILLUS: their aptness to learn a foreign language almost effortlessly).

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal" (Eadie, p. 262).

Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is an axiomatic, eternal principle from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to begin, or initiate a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

Same word as when Solomon initiated/dedicated the newly-constructed Temple (I Ki. 8:63; II Chron. 7:5)

The word originally meant to "rub the palate" of a child with chewed dates to get it to acquire a taste for food; EX: midwives would rub palate with oil before child began to suck. The word means to make experienced or accustomed to what you want (as a horse gets accustomed to being directed by a rope in its mouth) (BDB, p. 335)

If we get our children accustomed to what is right, they won't depart!

"The way" = the proper road

"Old" = mature

"It" = the way (road) we trained them on

Teach your children God's standards for purity, money management, ethics, etc. (The best way to teach = by precept and example!)

Turn to: Deut. 6:4-7 (**v. 7)

How to teach God's Word to your children:

1. Apply it to yourself first (v. 4-6)

2. Teach repetitiously (diligently = lit. to repeat. The word described the sharpening of arrows by repetitious striking [Is. 5:28; Ps. 45:6]; ILLUS: sanding metal objects)

3. Teach specifically (the commands of God (v. 6)

4. Teach continually (not limited to specific time periods) (from sunrise to sunset)

    a. Simultaneous training - "When . . ."
    b. Informal training - (While sitting, lying down in house; while walking outside of house)

Do you make time to have a daily devotional time with your family?

Do you weave Biblical truth and principles into your children as you go through the daily routines of life?

3. I wish I had LOVINGLY DISCIPLINED my children more

Pr 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early).

The word discipline is related to the word “disciple” (one who is taught or trained by another).

Discipline is not punishment, but training. It is teaching our kids that sin is no light matter and that there are consequences for it! There are wages to sin!

4. I wish I had LAUGHED & PLAYED with my children more

Pr 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Is your home a “fun place” to be for you kids?

Or is the scene one of fighting, yelling, and screaming?

Or does a heavy air of depression hang over it because Mom is giving in to self-pity and sorrow rather than denying herself and trying to be a joy to her kids?

Or are you off doing your own thing, putting more interest and time into your material possessions and the cleanliness of your house than in developing deep relationships with your children?

Because women display emotion generally more than men, mother sets the mood for the home.

Play:

--Sports: bike riding, soccer, kickball, hockey, basketball, freeze tag, hide and seek (ILLUS: although our kids often play hide and seek with each other or friends, the one they still remember and talk about is the time when Mom & Dad played it with them)

--Board games: Clue, Scrabble, Pictionary, Aggravation, Outburst, Bible games (Bible Trivia, Solomon's Treasure)

--Listening to Christian tapes and good music

--Being read to

--Watching a good video

--Hobbies: puzzles, making models, playing a computer, making crafts

--Home jobs: building something with your son or fixing something, baking cookies, washing the car, cleaning something

--Ministries: handing out tracts, going to the Rest Home, helping clean the church together

"To My Grown-Up Son"

My hands were busy through the day,
I didn't have much time to play
the little games you asked me to,
I didn't have much time for you.
I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook
but when you'd bring your picture book
and ask me please to share your fun,
I'd say, "A little later, Son."
I'd tuck you in all safe at night
And hear your prayers, turn out the light,
Then tiptoe softly to the door.

I wish I'd stayed a minute more,
For life is short and years rush past,
A little boy grows up so fast.
No longer is he at your side,
His precious secrets to confide.
The picture books are put away,
There are no children's games to play,
No good-night kiss, no prayers to hear,
My hands once busy, now lie still.
The days are long and hard to fill,
I wish I might go back and do
The little things you asked me to.

5. I wish I had <u>SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE</u> for my children more

2Ti 1:5 ... I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Parents, how you respond to authority will develop in your children a model of who they should respond to God-ordained authorities.

Moms, how do you expect your children to respect your authority (to honor and obey you) when you show total disregard for your husband's authority in your life?

Dads, how do you expect your kids to gain a desire for God's word and learn from the pastor at church if you have "roast preacher" for Sunday afternoon dinner?

6. I wish I had <u>SHELTERED</u> my children more

Ro 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

To "shelter" a child is <u>no</u> a bad thing (it means to enclose them in a place of protection from the destructive elements of the world).

We are commanded to be wise concerning good and <u>simple</u> (ignorant, uneducated) regarding evil. How much more our children!

Our children should be innocent, not knowledgeable about worldly things (ILLUS: how many times my wife has listened to children in her Sunday School class [even when she taught 4 & 5 year olds!] talk about R-rated movies which they had seen! How could parents expose them to such things??)

Our children should not be thrown out of the next until they are ready to "fly" on their own! (Why do moms often stay home when their children are little, then rush off to a job as soon as the kids are in Jr. High? In some ways, that is perhaps the time when they need mom most!)

Children are usually not emotionally or spiritually ready to tackle the full onslaughts of society's wickedness.

We should shelter our children until they have developed their own personal convictions and spiritual maturity, so that they can "swim" through society on their own!

Our children should not be intentionally thrown out to the lions!

I know a pastor who took his junior age son and daughter out of home-schooling and sent them to a NYC public school so that they could learn to stand for themselves, and not be sheltered from the "real" world. They both are now rebellious teens.

I have been in NY for almost 9 years now, and I am still waiting to see a young person make it successfully through public school and turn out right (on fire for God). (Perhaps one or two have made it, but I can't recall any to mind).

Areas of danger for our children:
1. TV (the world is in our living rooms! Do you know what your kids are watching?)
2. Rock, rap, and worldly music (music influences a young person more than other stimuli)
3. The influence of most public (and many private) schools
4. Wrong friends
5. The Internet (the X-rated filth travelling through our telephone wires and out our computer monitor)

7. I wish I had <u>PRAYED</u> for my children more

Lu 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end,* that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

When Jesus was taken to be crucified and the women were weeping for Him, He said, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children" (Luke 23:28).

The degree to which our children turn out right can be measured by the amount of prayer we invest for them!

(So many "Christian" parens are so overly concerned about their children's future financial security that we make great plans (and start trust funds, etc.) for them and miss the priority of our attention toward them (their character and walk with God).

If we are not careful, we can make great plans for their education and career and "miss the boat" on their spirituality!

ILLUS: the picture of the dad on his knees for his son

Our children are in a spiritual battle! The enemy wants your kids! He wants to confuse their system of beliefs, alter their decisions and direction, introduce them to devious company (friends).

CONCLUSION:

*Would you give of your time to <u>laugh and play</u> with your kids?

*Would you decide today to teach your children of God's Word and ways?
(this would require you to know God's Word; perhaps your being more faithful to church services and paying attention more intently would be in order! Perhaps enrolling in the Bible Institute would be of interest to you [in light of your great responsibility]).

*Would you dedicate yourself to <u>training</u> your children by loving, consistent <u>discipline</u>?

*Would you ask God to enable you to <u>model</u> Christ-likeness before the eyes of your kids?

*Would you <u>shelter</u> them from the influence of the godless world?

*Would you today commit yourself to <u>praying</u> every day for your kids?

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