

DIOCESAN MOTHERING SUNDAY MESSAGE

Beloved present and future Mothers,

It is with a heart full of gratitude to our God and Father, the Creator and Preserver of life, that we greet and congratulate you for another opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the unique privilege and grace of womanhood. Our Diocese remains indebted to you and appreciative of your commitment to our life and mission through your sacrificial life in your local churches, homes, and places of assignment and duty. We also acknowledge and applaud your activities leading to this celebration today. We bless you all.

As we celebrate this year, we've chosen to point to our mothers, in particular and women in general, to the rise in the ungodly competition between husbands and wives, in particular, and men and women in general which has given rise to the rate at which our homes and marriages break and our youths' involvement in criminal activities. As men and women continue to compete for superiority in socials, business, and even religious life, our homes are totally neglected and children left at the mercy of ungodly pressures and tendencies. No day passes these days without news of some horrendous acts involving our children and youths.

In the midst of all these, we want to remind all our mothers in particular, and women in general, that God, who has called and adorned them so wonderfully, is still looking for those of them to use in accomplishing His divine purpose for mankind.

God is looking for that woman who does not see her role in the home, society or business as a competition to the man, rather as a necessary complement to the success of the man. Women who reject the saying "Whatever a man can do, a woman can do also" as devilish and unChristian. God did not create the woman to repeat the same duties and responsibilities already given to the man, but with unique, complimentary and supportive roles.

As in our anchor texts (Joshua 2:3-4; James 2:25) we see a woman totally written off by the society for her "sinful" life, being used of God to accomplish His divine work for His people. The Bible says she was "counted righteous" because of her heart disposition towards others (the spies) and her faith and confession of the power of the God of Israel to deliver His people. In same way today, in the midst of the ungodliness of our society God is not looking for sinless women; not for those who are better than others, but for that woman who is poor in spirit, who acknowledges her sinfulness, and is willing to surrender to the will and purpose of God in her state as a wife, mother, sister, aunt, civil servant, corporate staff, etc. Those who are not bothered by the

success of others but rejoice with them and joyfully wait on the Lord for their time.

Let's remember that what made the difference between dethroned queen Vashti and new queen Esther was unwillingness and willingness to obey the voice of the men God placed them under respectively. We must also remember that Jesus Christ came from the lineage of Rehab, the Prostitute.

So we charge and remind all our wives and mothers to know that God is still in the business of recruiting more Esthers, and Rehabs. Unworthy women who in obedience to God's authority over their lives became instruments to His glory and blessing of their world. We pray that as you continue to obediently surrender yourselves to God in Christ, you may remain the apples of His eyes and vessels of honor in His hands.

HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY TO YOU ALL

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Son of a godly Mother,

†Nath, Aba Ngwa North

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