



LESSONS FROM BIBLICAL MOTHERS

*A Compilation of Wisdom From Women
Past to Present*

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MAACAH: THE MOTHER WHO RAISED TWO KINGS

By Theresa Boedeker

Maacah's story is told in I Kings 15.

"In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah, and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done." (I Kings 15:9-11 ESV)

One of my best friends is a mother of 7. If there is someone I would trust to raise my children, it is her. She is the kind of person who makes me be a better mother and person.

Yet not everyone thinks of her as a good mom.

6 of her 7 children are faithful Christians, and one is a Prodigal. Some in her church judge her harshly for this.

We may innocently think that if we teach our children to pray, forgive their siblings, attend church, sing hymns, read their bibles, and give their hearts to the Lord, they will be Christians. But it doesn't always work this way. I know other children raised in wonderful Christian homes who were baptized, and then in their adulthood abandoned their faith.

You might even be the parent of one.

Maacah was the mother of two Kings of Judah. Her oldest was Abijam, who ruled in Jerusalem for three years. "And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him" (I Kings 15:3). When Abijam died, his younger brother, Asa, became ruler of Jerusalem. Asa was opposite of his wicked brother and ruled for 41 years. "Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done" (11). And "the heart of Asa was wholly true to the Lord all his days" (14)

How did Maacah raise two such different sons? One righteous, and one wicked. I want

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to think Maacah taught Asa to follow God and walk in His ways, and did not instead, teach her son's to worship foreign gods. But it turns out she probably did the later as Asa "removed Maacah from being queen mother because she had made an abominable image for Asherah" (a female goddess) (13).

We like to think that as mothers we are the primary influence on our children. And while we are, there is no guarantee that if we are good Christian mothers, our children will choose Christianity. Or that if we are bad mothers our children won't be Christians. We are each of us responsible for our own salvation. Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV), "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Don't buy into the falsehood that if you do A than B will happen? Because nowhere in the bible does God guarantee our children will be Christians if we raise them a certain way.

If you are a parent of a Prodigal, know that you are not responsible for the actions of your adult children. Love them, pray for them, keep a relationship with them, and give them to God and trust His loving hands. Your job is not to fix them, only God can do that.

Always raise your children to follow God. But remember our job is not to save our children. That's God's job.

Reflection

Have you bought into the lie that if we do our part, God guarantees our children will be Christians? If you have, how has this belief painted your views of parenting and of women with Prodigals?

If you have a Prodigal, is it time to quit beating yourself up and release your Prodigal to God and start enjoying life again. God does not hold you responsible for your adult children's choices. He wants you walking in freedom.

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Gracious Lord, you entrust us with our children. Help us be wise and diligent mothers teaching our children about you and your ways. But let us also humbly realize that you give no guarantees. Give hope to those with Prodigals and let us be sensitive to them and their pain. May we always remember all good gifts come from you, even our children. In your sons' name, amen.



Theresa Boedeker delights in grace and God's love. She has two children and a husband. She enjoys being outside, spending time with family and friends, reading, writing, and telling funny stories. She is passionate about encouraging people to remember God's truth about themselves, life, and grace. She blogs at TheresaBoedeker.com where she unwraps life with words.