MOTHER-LAW'S FORMULA

RESURRECTION BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY, NIGERIA.

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Topic:

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW'S FORMULA

Bible Text: The Book of Ruth

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Prayer

Thank You Lord for tonight. As we go on a study of Your word, let life and light become our portion, in Jesus's Name. Amen

Study

I welcome everyone of us to tonight's bible study in the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit. I hope that all of you had a lovely day. Tonight we have a very important topic before us and I would like everyone to follow carefully as the Lord is ready to communicate something important to us. If we look into the world currently and especially into the family, which is the first agent of socialization we would see that there are different kinds of problems happening in many families especially when it comes to the extended aspect of our families and how we relate with one another, that is why I will be considering the word of God tonight to see what God wants to reveal to us concerning family relationships.

Although we will be looking at just one aspect of this relationship, firstly, let us look at what is happening in most families. There have always been problems when it comes to the relationship between children and their parents- in-law, most especially the mother-in-laws. Many ladies have problems on how to relate with their mother in laws and I have seen cases whereby the ladies do pray to their mother-in-law days before the wedding day. That is why you have to critically examine the word of God to see how best we can relate with our mother-in-laws and father-in-laws without rancor. Tonight's topic is *The Mother-in-law's formula*

One might be thinking that this topic does not concern me because I am not a woman or I am not a lady, but it sure does concern you because we would be considering different areas which has to do with different kinds of family aspect and would try to tackle the mother-in-law's/daughter-in-laws problem, it would also be useful to you as you would be able to guide others. Praise the Lord!

What is a formula?

It is a plan or method for doing, making, or achieving something.

And we know that what we want to achieve is a cordial relationship between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law. We should know that if a woman's relationship with her

mother-in-law is not strong enough it can lead to bitterness, hatred, malice, disrespect, and all kinds of things which should not be found in the life of a child of God and this can stop a person from making it to heaven on the last day, because the Bible says that follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. If you will not see the Lord without being peaceful with everybody, then it is very important that we build cordial relationships between us and our in-laws as a whole. If you look at how things were during the time of Ruth and Naomi, we would discover that that was just the way it was in many African cultures when it comes to the extended aspect, wives live with their extended family of their husbands. Many widows in Africa live with their mother in-laws after the death of their husbands but the part of it that brings concern, serious concern to us in this generation is that the problems between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law these days were not so common during the time of our forefathers in fact they built a friendly, cordial relationship.

Relationships that are enviable but these days reverse is the case because a lot of things have changed, coming to modernization, civilization and different kinds of educational mentality that has taken over the world. We would be considering different chapters and verses in the book of Ruth and I would like everyone of us to follow carefully. I believe we know about the story of Naomi and her daughters-in-law. Ruth and Orpah lived with Naomi after their husbands died. Let us turn our bibles with me to the Book of Ruth 1:3-5 KJV And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. [4] And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. [5] And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

These two young ladies lived with the family of Elimelech for more than 10 years and during this period, they had built a strong relationship with their mother in-law that they both did not want to leave her even as she planned on relocating back to Israel. Ruth 1:8 KJV And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. According so the words of Naomi it is clear that this young ladies dealt **kindly** with her, they were not hostile to her. So after so much pestering for them to go back to their father's house to get husbands for themselves, Orpah left. So Naomi told Ruth in verse 15 that "look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god's return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth refused. And said, "for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. The Lord does so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." This is a very high level of loyalty!

I know all men would love this kind of relationship between their wives and their mothers because it brings peace to the home. So Naomi left Ruth alone to follow her to Israel, and because of this loyal act she had the privilege of becoming the great-grandmother of the Man, Jesus Christ. Though Oprah made a good decision too but it was not sacrificial like that of Ruth, and till date we did not hear about her again. Ruth

followed Naomi to Israel as a foreigner, and throughout her stay with Naomi they lived peacefully. It was not long after Ruth and Naomi got to Israel that she got married to Boaz and she conceived and gave birth to a son who was named Obed. Then in Ruth 4:15(KJV) - the people of the land who came to rejoice with Naomi said some striking words to her. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for THY DAUGHTER IN LAW, WHICH LOVETH THEE, WHICH IS BETTER to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. The women of Bethlehem blessed God for giving Naomi a son through Ruth the Moabitess and they said this words specifically,

"Your daughter-in-law, who loves you, is better..."

If we look carefully into these three words, you will see that the three of them are linked to one another, a daughter-in-law is not a biological child, yet what makes such a person better than seven sons is because she loves. Love is the overriding factor here. Which means that before a daughter-in-law can be better than the children of a mother-in-law, she needs to love her mother-in-law unconditionally. The Bible says love covers all wrongs, the truth is that most of the problems we have between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law is due to the lack of love between them. A daughter-in-law should learn to give due respect to her mother-in-law because she is just like her own mother, but in a situation where a lady does not even respect her own mother, how would she cope with her mother-in-law? Ruth loved Naomi to the point that people attested to it, she did not only Love her by words but also in actions. She really sacrificed a lot for her mother-in-law and these actions are in no doubt a proof of love so because of the love Ruth had for Naomi things went on smoothly between them.

How did Ruth achieve this, that is why we are going to consider the formula she used in working with her mother-in-law which earned her a huge amount of success. I believe that every daughter-in-law and aspiring ones here would also make use of this formula and maintain a very good relationship with their mothers-in-law too. The formula is **LORAS** Just as simple as that. We should not forget that in this study we are considering ladies who are genuinely born again not unbelievers because as an unbeliever you would not be able to make use of this formula effectively and it will not work for you so if you are an unbeliever, genuinely saved then I congratulate you because you are on the path of having a peaceful relationship with your in-laws.

1. L - Loyalty:

loyalty is a very good attribute that all ladies must have and must learn from Ruth, Ruth was very loyal to her mother-in-law. Ruth 1:16-17 (KJV) And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, **I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: [17] Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:** the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. Looking closely at the statement Ruth made, it is a very high form of loyalty. Loyalty means a loyal feeling, a feeling of strong support for someone or something. So she had a very strong feeling of support for her mother-in

-law which made her vow not to leave her. As a lady who is planning on getting married someday you have to be a fan of your mother-in-law, try to look at the aspect of her life that is lovely, good and interests you. It can be what she does e.g a job, how she makes unfamiliar dishes. It is do disheartening that some ladies do not see anything good in their mothers-in-law, no matter how bad a person can be in life you would always see a good aspect of that person's life only if you want to, therefore, the good aspect is what you have to concentrate on and not the expect where she is missing it or her flaws. The moment you continue to see the positive aspect of her life then you will be able to appreciate her and support that good part of her instead of shunning her or giving room to bitterness and malice.

Is someone still with me?

2. O - Obedience:

was obedient, she did not prove to know more than her mother-in-law as many ladies do these days, they do not see any reason to obey their mother-in-law as much as it is not their own mothers that gave them the instruction. If what your mother-in-law is telling you to do is not against God's commandments most especially when she is a child of God too, then you have to obey her because she is more experienced than you. In Ruth 3:1-6 Naomi gave Ruth some specific instructions. And here is what Ruth said and did. Ruth 3:5-6(KJV) And she said unto her, **all that thou sayest unto me i will do**. [6] And she went down unto the floor, and did **according to all that her mother in law bade her..** We should know that obedience brings about good rapport between younger people and elder ones. Ruth did not prove herself to be wiser and at the end it all ended in her favour. When you give birth to a new baby and your mother-in-law tells you to change the child's napkin, do not say ahah, this is the seventh time I would be changing it today, when she says bath him with warm water even when the sun is hot, do not say even common sense says that it is cold water that should be used, doing what she asks you to do will not kill the child. In as much as whatever she has told you to do would not have any harmful effect on you or anyone do it. Learn the art of obedience, however if you are not obedient to your parents at home, you would find this hard to do.

When she says that she wants to eat solid food, obey and cook it for her, do not say it is noodles that are available and there is nothing you can do about it. At times, you might look foolish and even your friends can call you a fool but as time goes on you will win her heart, no matter how hostile she might be. We have seen mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law who are best of friends even closer to each other than her own mother. At times this takes time to happen but would happen with patience.

3. R - Respect:

your mother-in-law is not an option, it is a must! Ruth respected Naomi, Ruth 2:2 (KJV) And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. She sought her consent before taking the step of going to glean, and this made her

glean in the right field, when we seek the consent of the elderly before taking some major steps in our lives, it shows that we respect them, and recognizes their presence in our lives. As a daughter-in-law, take your mother-in-law in high esteem, greet her politely, speak politely and not rudely, always try to give a smile when you speak to her and let your voice be low, do not talk as if you are shouting. Whenever she calls your attention to a mistake you have committed, apologize immediately and let her see the sincerity on your face. Do not say that it is her business.

Respect her, the way you would respect your parents, this is not to mothers-in-law alone but to in-laws generally, when she comes to stay with you for sometime, let her know about things that concerns the family generally (may not be private matters between you and your husband) do not just leave for work or market without letting her know. These are acts of respect, by this she would see that you value her and she would love you the most and you can build a close relationship.

4. A- Affection:

affectionate to her, try to observe her close to know her love language, some women love gifts so much, so if hers is gifts, then start buying her gifts, it may not really be an expensive thing, just simple gifts would do. It can be in the form of cash too, just send her something. It would speak of your love to her even in your absence. Some love attention, if that is her love language, then if you are the busy type try to create time for her. As you are doing this, always retain a pure mentality about mothers-in-law, and not the evil ones flying around, because keeping a healthy mindset would seriously help you in relating well with her as a child of God. Ruth 2:18(KJV) And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: **and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.** Ruth ate and reserved some for her mother-in-law, she was not selfish to the point of forgetting her. That is how it should, always be considerate enough, with the thought that you'd one day be a mother-in-law to someone too. Stop listening to the negative things people say about your in-laws, just focus on the good aspect so that they will not turn you to their enemy.

And lastly,

5. S - Sacrifice:

paid sacrifices of following Naomi wherever she went, even when it was convenient or not. Ruth 1:22 (KJV) So Naomi returned, **and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab:** and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest. Part of the sacrifice you can pay for your mother-in-law is to see that she eats well, sleeps well and is comfortable. Paying for sacrifice is part of what is missing in most homes these days, even amidst couples, everyone wants to get repaid for a good thing. No, it should not be so, we should learn to do good without seeking repayment. Ruth followed even when there was no hope of getting a son to marry from Naomi, Ruth 2:2 (KJV) And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, **Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace.**

And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. She had to pay the price of fending for the both of them. You should be the one to always encourage your husband to send some thing to his parents, this is when he would also send yours without you requesting it. Some ladies are only concerned about their own parents which is not supposed to be for a child of God. Pay sacrifices of going to visit your in-laws, spend some days with them, clean the house for them especially when they are old, you can assist with washing their clothes or get someone to do it for her, pay sacrifices, they are also your parents. And by so doing you would have built cordial relationships.

In conclusion,

As you make use of this formula, also put them in prayers and let God know about how you want them to behave to you. This formulas is not limited to mothers-in-law alone, use as applies for other members of the family, I would like everyone including husbands and wives, and also those who are aspiring to get married someday to know that building a good relationship with in-laws is not limited to ladies alone, you as a man should learn how to present your wife well before your family, that is when she would also be respected, build good relationship with her family too. The way you take her is how they would take her. Do not demean her in front of your family members. She is one with you. Help her to know more about your mother since you have lived with her for years and know her more than she does, let her know her likes and dislikes too.

I believe that by making use of these godly formulas coupled with prayers you would have a lovely relationship with your in-laws. I pray for you that you will not be an enemy to your in-laws in Jesus name. Amen

This is where we would stop for tonight, it was indeed a long one which I did not want to break in parts. Thanks for your patience. If you have any questions kindly drop it here.

Question 1

I have a question here.

As a Lady, you actually did all this practically and she did very well initially, but eventually, you got to know that all those love she showed was fake, that she is(mother in-law) doing something else behind you, talking against you to your husband , to even her own children that loves you dearly, that they should not mind you that you are pretending that, it is because you have only one child that is why you are still doing nicely that if you are fully settled down that you will change but when she sees you, she will be doing nicely. Until, her secret got exposed by her close niece to you but you have been suspecting change in behavior in your husband before then which makes everything real, and she finally showed you her real color. It was hell.

What can such a Lady do?

Answer 1

Continue to do what you are suppose to do and live the rest to God -- The evil shall not prevail over good, if you are doing good to her and she continues to pay you with evil, do not stop doing the good things for the wicked will surely bow before you as long as you are walking righteously before God. Do not be tired of doing good for God shall pay everyone according to their deeds.

Answer 2

Wow, well answered. To add to it, she needs patience, as time goes on the truth would be revealed that she is not pretending after when they think she would change but did not change to worse. So continue and you would one day be justified to the point that the woman would herself confess with her own mouth that all she has been doing and saying against you at your back are false.

Closing Prayer

Father in the mighty name of Jesus. We thank You for another wonderful time in Your presence. Father give us the grace to be doers of Your word in Jesus name. Let Your anointing upon Your son never run dry in Jesus name,You will take him places and use him mightily for Your work in Jesus name. As we will all be going to bed. Watch over each and everyone of us oh Lord Reveal Yourself to us and give each and everyone of us the grace to serve You in spirit and in truth oh God for in Jesus mighty name we have prayed. Amen!!!

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