The Christ-Like Mother
1 Kings 3:16 – 28

I. Intro
   A. May seem odd to use text for Mother's Day
   B. 3 Characteristics/Traits for Christ-like Mom

II. 1 – Puts Her Life & Family in Care of King of kings (READ v. 16 – 22)
   A. 2 prostitutes – however, they were moms
      i. Each has a child; both born within a few days of each other; 1 child
dies by accidental suffocation by mother laying on it
      ii. Mother, whose child dies, swaps dead child for live child while other
mother is asleep
      iii. Other mom eventually wakes up and realizes the dead child next
to her is not hers and the live child next to the first mom is hers –
children have been swapped
      iv. They argue – dead child's mom denies making the swap – moms come
before King Solomon for resolution – this initiated by the mom of the
live child because she certainly wants her real child back
   B. What cannot be solved by mere human wisdom is turned over to kingly
   wisdom
      i. Question: Remember, where did King Solomon's wisdom come from?
         God
      ii. READ v. 7 - 12
   C. Only way parents (moms and dads) to raise children and family today is
   by seeking after and following Godly wisdom; it’s putting our lives and
lives of family (spouses, children, grandchildren) in care of Heavenly King
   D. Question: How is this Christ-like? Jesus’ life was all about complete
devotion, commitment to doing His Father's will
      i. Times Jesus made statements about doing His Father's will
         a) Matthew 6:10 (NIV): Jesus' example prayer
            10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
         b) Matthew 26:39 (NIV): Prayer in garden before arrest
            39 "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet
not as I will, but as you will."; Matthew 26:42 (NIV): second time
            42 "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away
unless I drink it, may your will be done."
         c) John 15:10-11 (NIV)
            10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have
obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (Then Jesus said ...)

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

ii. A Christ-like mother is putting her life, and her family, in care of King Jesus and surrendering to will of her Heavenly Father

III. 2 – Puts Others Needs Above Her Own (Complete Unselfishness – READ v. 23 – 26)
A. Both moms arguing before King Solomon on whose child is whose
   i. Solomon's decision: split the child in half, give one half to each woman
   ii. Each mom's true nature, true heart, true motive is revealed
   iii. v. 26a: Mom of live child is filled with compassion for her son; great sacrifice she's willing to make – give her the living baby
B. Not specifically told of reasons why the mom of the dead child swaps the babies, but certainly selfishness played a role
C. See the complete unselfishness, the true heart, of the living child's mom; essentially putting dead child's mom's needs above her own – even though absolutely undeserved
D. v. 26b: Compare to the true heart of the mom of the dead child: Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two! (exclamation point) – utter selfishness - “If I can't have ... you can't have.”
   i. Attitude in many families/people today; attitude typical in our nation, world today
   ii. Idea of everyone having “fair share” - if I can’t have, then you can’t have – instead of having “fair opportunity”
E. Question: How is this Christ-like? All Jesus' life seen in gospels was about serving – everyone else’s needs above His own even though others were absolutely undeserving
   i. Jesus' greatest example of unselfishness – on the cross
      34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
      42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
      43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
F. A Christ-like mother puts needs of others above her own – whether it's needs of family or complete strangers – even though may be undeserving
IV. 3 – Puts Love Above Self (READ v. 27 – 28)

A. Because of the unselfishness of living child's mom; completely willing to sacrifice her own happiness and rightful justification – the king rewards her with what's been taken from her – her child

B. Question: How is this Christ-like? Just look at the cross and tremendous sacrifice Jesus made for sinful man and the love He showed

i. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)
   14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.
   15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

ii. 1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)
   1 … if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
   2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

V. Close

A. A Christ-like mother: her life and family in care of the King of kings

B. A Christ-like mother: puts others needs above her own – family, friend, or stranger – completely unselfish

C. A Christ-like mother: puts love and sacrifice above self

D. These same points also apply to anyone who professes to know Christ as Lord and Savior

E. Today, think of your mom/wife/woman who raised you, either met/meets these 3 characteristics, you need to be giving thanks/praising the Lord for her today

F. Parents, Grandparents, soon-to-be or hope-to-be parents, put your life/family in care of King Jesus; put other’s needs above your own whether they deserve it or not; put love and sacrifice above self