

A Mother's Forgiveness

The father of Dwight L. Moody – an American evangelist and publisher who founded the Moody Church, the Moody Bible Institute and Moody Publishers – died when Dwight was only 4 years old.

A month later, Mrs. Moody gave birth to twins. Now she had nine mouths to feed and no income. Merciless creditors dogged the widow, claiming everything they could get their hands on.

As if Mrs. Moody didn't have enough troubles, her eldest boy later ran away from home. Certain that her son would return, Mrs. Moody placed a light for him in the window each night.

Young Dwight was inspired by her faith and prayers. He wrote: "I can remember how eagerly she used to look for tidings of that boy; how she used to send us to the post office to see if there was a letter from him ... some night when the wind was very high, and the house would tremble at every gust, the voice of my mother was raised in prayer for that wanderer."

Her prayers were answered. Her prodigal son did eventually return. Dwight remembered: "While my mother was sitting at the door, a stranger was seen coming toward the house, and when he came to the door, he stopped.

"My mother didn't know her boy. He stood there with folded arms and a great beard flowing down his breast, his tears trickling down his face. When my mother saw those tears, she cried: 'Oh, it's my lost son!' and entreated him to come in. But he stood still. 'No, mother,' he answered, 'I will not come in until I hear first that you have forgiven me.'"

Mrs. Moody was only too willing to forgive. She rushed to the door, threw her arms around him, and there the prodigal found forgiveness.

This story illustrates at least two powerful truths: (1) The enduring love and faith of a mother, and (2) the power of forgiveness.

Studies show that people who forgive are happier and healthier than those who hold resentments, and forgiveness improves physical health because of improved functioning in cardiovascular and nervous systems.



Is there someone you need to forgive? Perhaps you need to forgive yourself for some past mistake.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13).