

## A Sacrificial Mother

She was the 25<sup>th</sup> child in the English family of a religious dissenter. She had little education and lived in a male-dominated age.

She married an older man and bore him 19 children, nine of whom died. Her house burned down, her barn fell down, her health failed, and her pastor husband was either poor, jailed or sick much of the time.

But Susanna Wesley raised two sons, named John and Charles, who – along with fellow cleric George Whitefield – changed the world by creating the evangelical movement known as Methodism.

Just consider: Although Susanna Wesley never preached a sermon or published a book or founded a church, she is known as the Mother of Methodism.

Why? Because John and Wesley, as children consciously or unconsciously will, applied the example and teachings and circumstances of their home life.

Fortunately, Susanna Wesley wasn't a woman who thought the task of mothering to be beneath her. She was the primary source of her children's education.

The day after their fifth birthday, their formal education began. They attended classes for six hours, and on the very first day they were supposed to learn the whole of the alphabet. All the children learned Latin and Greek and were well tutored in the classical studies that were traditional in England at that time.

She wrote several pieces that would be fundamental in the education of her children. In addition, Susanna Wesley wrote meditations and spiritual commentaries, including extended commentaries on the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments.

Fortunately, a young Jewish woman named Mary didn't consider anything more meaningful than being the mother of the Son of God.

From the beginning, she knew she was irreplaceable in the life of her child, and her sacrificial love remained strong to the end as she watched Him die for her and the world's sins. Jesus' efforts to care for Mary indicate how much she meant to Him.

It is the heart of mothers to sacrifice, and the need of mothers to be remembered. Surprise your mother this weekend with an unexpected token of love.

Motherhood is best defended by children who appreciate their mother's love.

*When Jesus therefore saw His mother ... He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"*  
(John 19:26 NKJV)

– Beecher Hunter

