

Gospel Lighthouse Church
5/12/24

Mother's Day
Major Models

Text: II Samuel 21:10-14.

Introduction: A *model* is an informative representation of an object, person or system. The term originally denoted the plans of a building in late 16th-century English ... a person who serves as a template for others to copy, as in a role model. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Model>).

Mother's especially African American mothers epitomize biblical truths within the legacy of many that have preceded you. The primary New Testament biblical word for model is "*tupos*." It encompasses both **physical representations** and **ethical examples**, carrying layers of meaning that resonate across biblical contexts. It serves as a bridge between the tangible and the spiritual, inviting reflection and deeper understanding.¹

Recently when visiting the National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington DC, viewing myriad accounts of visual and documented history; Two particular scenes closely together expanded my love and appreciation for mothers. The first related to lynching and second, the brutal murder of Emmett Till, the pain, resilience and tenacity of faith of his mother, Mamie Till. Both events were spectacles of merciless violence to terrorize the Black community from moving forward. The mothers, Rizah in our text, and Mamie Till shared a common painful experience, the tragic and brutal untimely death of Rizah's two sons, 5 grandsons and Mamie Till's son, Emmett. Both modeled lifetime lessons as a tribute to mothers.

1. Refuse to allow predators and pain to paralyze your potential—II Sam.21:10.
 - a. Rizah an intercessor, b. Mamie Till an educator to shaped lives and encouraged others to pursue dreams.
 - b. "We cannot afford the luxury of self-pity... we must teach our children to weather the hurricanes of life, pick up the pieces and rebuild."²
2. Recognize the power of perseverance in your tragedies—II Sam.21:10-14.
 - a. Perseverance (5-6 months) of Rizah caused King David's recognition and honorable burial of her sons, Saul and Jonathan-vv10-14. (Executed because of the Levitical law of retributive justice—Lev.24:19-21).
 - b. Perseverance of Mamie Till resulted in her son's honorable burial, world recognition of injustice and catalyst to civil rights.
 - "The only thing more tragic than the tragedy that happens to us is the way we handle it." Ben Hines. There is a path to redemption in the midst of our tragedies. (linkedin.com)
 - Mamie Till's effect is ongoing.
 - Jesus's crucifixion epitomizes the power of perseverance in tragedy.
3. Rely on God to always provide models/examples to encourage you—II Sam.21:10-14.
 - a. To assure painful and grieving times are manageable.
 - b. To put you in touch with real people with challenging circumstances resounding a powerful witness, with God's help "all things are possible!"
 - The two mothers in this message along with mothers of today speak loudly; all have the potential to be excellent models/examples of resilience, perseverance and faith. .

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/5179.htm>

² Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that changed America—Kindle Loc 66. MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY November 5, 1989 Dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial, Southern Poverty Law Center Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama"