

My husband sends most of his salary to his mother

My husband, Moses, and I have been married for six years, and we are raising two young children together. He is a good man; faithful, responsible, and committed to providing for our family. However, almost every month, he sends nearly all of his salary to his mother in the village. By the second week of the month, we are struggling to make ends meet. I have borrowed money to pay rent, buy food, and even cover school expenses. When I try to discuss this issue with him, he becomes defensive and says, "She sacrificed everything for me. You found me grown." While I understand and respect his responsibility as a son, I feel like our family is surviving on scraps. I am exhausted from shouldering the financial pressure in silence. Is it wrong for me to expect that his priority should be his wife and children? How can I bring this up without appearing selfish or disrespectful to his mother?

Sarah

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for acknowledging your husband's good qualities, even as you address the concern about him sending most of his money to his mother. You mention that he is committed to providing for his family, but this commitment is not translating into practice due to issues with prioritisation. This is where the core of your concern lies.

Sarah, the situation you are facing reminds me of the scripture from Genesis 2:24, which states that "a man (or woman) will leave their mother and father and stick to their spouse." The emphasis on this principle suggests that when it is overlooked, problems can arise. Strife often occurs when husbands and wives disregard this important point, even if

they do not share the same belief system. It appears that you are experiencing some of the consequences of neglecting this principle.

The burden you are carrying is further pronounced by the feeling that you are shouldering a financial load that shouldn't fall on you because money is being allocated elsewhere. First, let me commend you for filling the gaps for the sake of your family. By doing so, you are ensuring continuity even if it leads you to incur debt. This is a crucial factor to consider as you navigate this situation.

Ideally, you would address this issue directly with him, but it seems he may not be receptive to your concerns. This might be due to his perception of your worry or possibly the way you approach the topic, but let us not dwell on that right now.

2X

Prevalence. Among couples where both the husband's mother and the wife's mother have similar financial needs, the husband's mother is approximately twice as likely to receive financial assistance from the couple as the wife's mother.

This finding comes from a sociological study of Mexican couples and shows a measurable inequality in how money is sometimes allocated within families when supporting aging parents.

In other words, husbands' mothers receive help about two times more often than wives' mothers in similar financial situations. This statistic highlights a trend in intergenerational financial support that can reflect deeper cultural and social norms around gender and family obligations.

Determine how much money you can contribute to key areas without placing an undue burden on yourself



What is the source of your stress? There are two main issues; making ends meet and borrowing money to manage the situation. Which of these do you have control over? Perhaps both. Let us start with making ends meet; your willingness to contribute makes you a supportive partner. Determine how much money you can contribute to key areas without placing an undue burden on yourself. This should be genuine and should bring you satisfaction.

Continue to play your part, but ensure it is manageable. This approach ties into the second aspect, which is borrowing. Commit to avoiding unnecessary debt. It is possible that your husband is becoming complacent due to your over-reaching efforts. If you do your part while he does not, this could create the necessary pressure for him to step up, especially since you describe him as committed to providing for the family.

Continuing to do your part while he does not may require courage and focus, as it involves challenging a pattern he has established. Addressing this issue openly rather than ignoring it is essential to reducing your stress and preventing resentment from eroding the warmth and affection in your marriage. When wives feel neglected or that their husbands are not being responsible, even if they stay in the relationship, resentment can build over time, further damaging the relationship.

So, Sarah, you are justified in feeling that you and the children should be his priority. It is natural to feel this way in your situation. When husbands or men have an excessive attachment to their mothers, it often places a burden on their wives, leading to turbulence in the relationship. Men may defend their mothers fervently and may struggle to understand their wives' concerns about this dynamic. This stems from deep attachments to their mothers that should ideally be redirected toward their spouses.

Try to approach this situation less emotionally. It is a common issue that requires more organisation and thoughtful consideration than emotional reaction. As we discussed, focus on doing your part and encourage him to do his. He may try to test your resolve, but it is important to remain firm and as change

READER ADVICE

Do not cover up

Evelyn Kasimu. The issue is that you are trying to take on the entire family's burdens. If he gives money to his mother and does not leave enough for his own family, he needs to face the consequences of his actions. Every time you fill the gap by borrowing money, he learns that he can depend on your solutions rather than managing his budget responsibly.

He must prioritise

Phoebe Miriam. It is fine for him to care for his mother, but he must prioritise his responsibilities as a husband and father. Sit together and share the household financial responsibilities. Make him aware of the impact of his decisions so he can budget properly. Offloading some of the burden onto him encourages balance.

Do not help out

Carol Mpologoma. Stop borrowing money to cover his contributions. Take a step back, relax, and focus on loving yourself. Let him face the consequences of mismanaging his funds. Eventually, he will learn to manage his money better and prioritise your family when he realises that you are no longer providing a safety net for his financial shortfalls.

Have a conversation

Charity Basinguzi. What if he is using the money for something else and simply claims it is for his mother? Before reacting, it is important to find out the truth. Sometimes what appears as favouritism might be a miscommunication or misunderstanding. Have an open conversation to clarify how funds are being used and where they truly go.

He is not man enough

Belinda Bullock. It is unfortunate when people fail to understand balance and priorities. If his mother were his only concern, he could have stayed single. Instead, he chose marriage, which brings responsibilities. By neglecting his own family, he forces you to suffer while he continues mismanaging priorities. A grown man should take care of his family first.

Talk to his mother

Martin Ssebyala. Try talking to his mother; she may not realise the full consequences. If she supports your family's progress, she might advise him to strike a balance. This approach can help him manage responsibilities without unnecessary conflict.

Prioritise children

Vincent Mofokeng. Do not let your children see he

