

MOTHER'S DAY - INSIGHTS FROM THE LIFE OF MARY

INTRODUCTION

A. Quotes for Mother's Day

1. William Thackeray, *Mother is the name for God on the lips and hearts of little children.*
2. On Mother's Day a minister gave this perfect tribute: *My mother practices what I preach.*
3. Henry Ward Beecher, *The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.*
4. Abraham Lincoln, *No man is poor who has had a Godly mother.*

B. Purpose

1. To give biblical insights concerning mothers through glimpses of our Lord Jesus Christ and His mother, Mary.
2. To honor mothers.

A MIRACULOUS BEGINNING

A. Virgin birth, Luke 1:26-38

1. Mary was selected for service on the basis of God's grace, Luke 1:28-30, *And he (the Angel Gabriel) came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*
2. Mary wondered how she could become a mother since she was a virgin.
 - a. She wasn't surprised by the description of her child to come, Luke 1:31-33, *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*
 - b. I believe all mothers have the highest expectation for their children.
 - c. Her concern was how such a thing could happen, a virgin bearing a child.
3. Mary responded with trust in her mighty God, Luke 1:38, *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*
4. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Mary pondered the things said to her.
 - 1) Who am I to be highly favored by God?
 - 2) How could I be a fitting mother for the hope of Israel?
 - 3) What will my child be like?
 - b. Anticipation of motherhood must be an exciting and frightening time.
 - c. As a father, I couldn't relate to Mary's pondering or those of any mother.
 - d. You see, motherhood begins at conception but fatherhood begins at birth.
 - 1) Mothers sense the change in their bodies and feel the child kick in the womb.
 - 2) Fathers experience all this second-hand until delivery.
 - 3) Nothing much changes for dad until the midnight feeding.
 - e. That's the beauty of motherhood - at one with the child from conception.

B. Prophetic announcement, Luke 2:34-35, *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*

1. A prophecy for Mary
 - a. A sword must have pierced her heart when innocent babies were massacred near Bethlehem because of Herod's fear of her child, the Messiah.
 - b. It must have struck again when whispers were made that her Son was conceived in shame.
 - c. Of course, we will look later at the crucifixion where her heart was pierced to the depth of her soul.
 - d. Dr. Erwin Lutzer wrote, *If she was to have a Son, she was also to have a sword. Great privilege brings great sorrow.*

2. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Mom, can you affirm that great privilege brings great sorrow?
 - b. The child you so dearly loved was taken from you prematurely.
 - c. The child you prayed for and sang to from conception, rejected your instruction and has not turned back.
 - d. The child you had such high hopes for had lesser interests in mind.
 - e. Motherhood is not without pain but I believe you would say, *It's worth it.*

A GODLY HERITAGE

- A. Jesus was raised according to the Law
 1. Birth ceremony, Luke 2:21-23, *And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")*
 2. Feast of Passover, Luke 2:41-42, *Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.*
 3. Darrel Bock, *Everything they did reflects their...faithfulness to God in following His law.*
 4. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Does faithfulness to God mark the raising of your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren?
 - b. It's not easy when the world is going a different direction.
 - c. But, there is no other way that gives promise from God - *train up a child in the way he should go.*
 - d. I thank God for a mom and wife whose lives have reflected faithfulness to God.
- B. He had steady development.
 1. Jesus was raised by a mother.
 - a. There is no record when Joseph died, it was after Jesus' 12th birthday.
 - b. God entrusted His Son to a mother.
 2. Jesus grew intellectually, morally, and spiritually.
 - a. Luke 2:40, *And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.*
 - b. Luke 2:52, *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*
 3. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Mom, you teach your child more than you will ever know.
 - b. A London editor submitted a list of people to Winston Churchill who had been Churchill's teachers. Churchill returned the list with this comment. *"You have omitted the greatest of my teachers-my mother.*
 - c. My mother taught me theology proper at the age of 4 (illustrate omniscience and omnipresence)
 - d. Moms, thanks for sensing teachable moments and instructing your children more deeply than you may have ever imagined.

PERPLEXING SITUATIONS

- A. In the Temple - was Jesus insensitive to the concerns of His mother? Luke 2:46-51, *After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.*
 1. Outline
 - a. Jesus amazed the teachers with His wisdom (46-47)
 - b. His parents were astonished at His insensitivity (48)
 - c. Jesus justified His actions (49)
 - d. His parents did not understand what He said (50)
 - e. Jesus submitted to their authority (51a)
 - f. Mary pondered what had taken place (51b)

2. Key verse (49), *Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?*
 - a. It is a declaration of Who He is.
 - b. His destiny was to do the will of His Heavenly Father.
 - c. Mary should have know that but care for a child can overwhelm a mom.
3. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Mary had not yet learned that Jesus' unique relationship to God is a priority over any human relationship.
 - b. I believe that is that something moms still struggle with.
 - c. A mom must be willing to release her child to God for His service, wherever and whatever that may be.
 - d. At the wedding - did Jesus speak disrespectfully to His mother? John 2:1-4, *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."*
2. Disrespect: *woman* was a highly respectful and affectionate mode of address.
2. Timing: *What does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.*
 - a. This was a divergence in their ways since He was beginning His ministry.
 - b. His ministry had to be under the control of His heavenly Father not his mother.
 - c. D.A. Carson, *Mary approaches Jesus as His mother, and is reproached...she responds as a believer, and her faith is honored.*
3. Thoughts on motherhood
 - a. Mary's role as mother of Jesus must be subordinated to Her submission to Jesus as Lord.
 - b. Mother will always be mother but roles and responsibilities change.
 - c. A mother's love is not a controlling love but unconditional love.

DEEP DEVOTION

- A. At the cross - What concern Jesus showed for His mother! John 19:26-27, *Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*
 1. Outline
 - a. In the midst of intense physical and spiritual pain, Jesus saw His mother.
 - b. He transferred responsibility for the care of His mother to John.
 2. What was Jesus' last concern - the care of His mother.
 - a. *William Barclay, There is something infinitely moving in the fact that Jesus in the agony of the cross, in the moment when the salvation of the world hung in the balance, thought of the loneliness of his mother in the days when he was taken away.*
 - b. Why did Jesus not entrust her care to his half-brothers?
 - 1) His brothers still did not believe in Him.
 - 2) John was the only man at the cross.
 - a) He had run away in fear but he returned.
 - b) Dr. Erwin Lutzer, *Jesus did not rebuke John for having left, but rather, when he returned he was given a glorious honor. When John returned, he learned that when you come to the cross, you are given a new responsibility.*
- B. Thoughts on motherhood
 1. In the midst of unbearable suffering for the spiritual needs of the world, Jesus provided for the physical needs of His mother.
 2. Jesus' mother was important to Him - nothing could keep Him from caring for Her - not even your sins and mine.
 3. Many of us have mothers who are no longer here. Today is a good day to remember Mom in prayer.
 4. I thank the Lord every day for my Mother and God's blessing me through her. What a day it will be when I can thank her again, face to face.

CONCLUSION

- A. There is much I don't know about motherhood but I know godly mothers are worthy of much more honor than they receive.
- B. Mothers are divine creations.