

God's Love and A mothers Love

Before we get started, I have video clip I would like to share first! That's an old clip but I thought it was sweet and applicable.

Happy Mother's ladies!

The usual Mother's day is celebrated with spending time with mom's, we go to brunches, give gifts, cards, and general outpourings of love and appreciation. There is so much more I think that needs to be said about Mother's day.

I was thinking where did Mothers day originate from? I learned something about the holiday, I'd like to share it with you. It actually has painful and somber roots: **It was founded for mourning women to remember fallen soldiers and work for peace.** It all started in the 1850s, when the West Virginia women's organizer **Ann Reeves Jarvis**—held **Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions, curbing milk contamination and fighting disease to try and lower infant mortality which at the time was about 25%...** The **Mother's day work clubs eventually included tending wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865.** These women tried to bring some unity among the men fighting against each other in the war. They were fighting too, warring for their sons and husbands through prayer to stop the oppression.

There were millions of mothers who saw their sons leave for war, many never came back— while many others returned maimed for life. The sacrifice of the men was great; equally so were the sacrifices, heartaches and tears of mothers left at home to pray and wait. Who can measure the pain of a mother's anxiety as she awaits news of a son or husband fighting in the war? Mother's day was indeed born out of the hearts of grieving mothers. There truly is no heart connection as compared to a loving mother for her child...

Ann Jarvis efforts were successful: within five years virtually every U.S. state was observing Mother's Day, and in 1914 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. Jarvis, who died in 1948, spent the last years of her life trying to abolish the holiday, as a protest against its commercialization.

She had a bigger purpose in mind. Im grateful for mothers day but Lets think about what would God have in mind for us, as mothers and fathers for the generations to come. Lets pray and ask the Lord what he would have us do as a church fo the future generations, He will direct our steps.

Today we definitely want to honor motherhood, I recognize that this is also a very difficult day for some of you. Holidays do not always bring the same emotions for people...while some are happy others are indifferent and others have deep sorrow... Some of you may not of wanted to come to church

today because your mother is no longer alive and you really miss her. While some of you may not had the best mother in the world and the syrupy sentiments in Hallmark cards certainly don't ring true for you.

I know there are women here who would give anything to have a child but you can't and this is a harsh reminder of that fact.... Some of you mothers have lost a child to heaven and today is especially hard for you as your loss stabs you afresh in the heart. And some of you mother's fear for your wayward child this morning, I do.

And some of you mom's live with the regrets of some of your decisions and how they have affected your children... And, some of you are flying solo working double duty to provide for and nurture your child's life and faith . Some of you may have a mother who is very sick right now and you wonder how much longer she's going to be with you.

It's not an easy day for everyone.

As I was talking with a sister last night bout mother's day and our children. I sensed the lord telling me to tell you, he's calling Mothers and Fathers to fight for the kingdom and upcoming generations of Children. The evil that prevails happens when good people do nothing. We need to fight the

oppressive spirits and evil coming against our children. Fight in faith, believing God will do what he says he will do, but WE have a part, what are we required to do? We stand in the gap for those lost and wandering and those oppressed by the evil one.

We are to fight through prayer for the deliverance of our children. There is so much more we are to do. WE cannot stand aside anymore and let the enemy take hold of our children.

Those women who started those work clubs to bring unity and health to those men and boys fighting the wars, were warring through their broken hearts to fight for what they believe. We believe Jesus Christ is a deliver and healer, He will heal our land and our children lets fight the good fight.

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Let's humble ourselves and be a praying church for our children, for All children

We all believe and know , we can rejoice and find great comfort and experience the Love of God in our identity, as a beloved child of God.... He will fight for us and with us.

Mothers love us regardless of what we do because they don't look only at our actions, they look upon our hearts. That is why a mother's love is the closest thing to God's love we can imagine. God does the same thing he looks at our hearts. God loves us with an unmerited love called grace and He has given that same capacity to a mother's heart.

Isaiah 66:13 “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Just like a good mother comforts us, so will God comfort you, you shall be comforted in Jerusalem, symbolizes home (Jerusalem) a place to belong.

We walk in the truth that God loves us with an everlasting love and a mother's love is a very similar to His. We are loved. Believe in the power of love to bless you. Believe in the power of Prayer to change things.

We all came into the world through our mothers, we ask God to bless them today. **I wanted to hit upon deeper meaning of Mother's Day not only to honor mothers for giving us life physically, but also to honor our true Parent, God, who gave us life at all levels: physically, intellectually, and spiritually. As we remember our mothers, let's thank God for them and for our lives the Lord ordained through them.**

Mother's Day focuses on appreciation, love, support, and gratitude for moms. **But for some of us like I mentioned may not of had a great mom, nonetheless, we can be grateful for so much.** This proverb I will share had such an impact on me when I was a new believer. My parents weren't available, and God showed me he always was.

Psalm 27:10 For **my father and my mother** have forsaken me, but the Lord will take **me** in.

A noted pastor In 1901, Louis Albert Banks and theologian of his day in America, wrote on this verse: "Are you lonely? Here is a chance to creep into the motherly arms of God and find peace. Are you sorrowful? You may come and put your head upon his breast and weep there and find infinite comfort. Are you sinful? Then there is a heart throbbing with infinite compassion and pity and love. Come, pillow your head here, and find forgiveness."

Personally, I remember when God showed me this verse. It helped me understand his love and faithfulness to me throughout my life. He was there. **I had a wonky childhood like so many of us do. But I had a God Mother and a probation officer that both blessed me when I was growing up.** They cared about me, and they showed it in actionable ways, took care of me in ways my own mom couldn't. I had a God mother who taught me the "now I lay me down to sleep prayer" and

she taught me a little bit about God. She took me shopping to the beauty shop then dressed me up to go to nice places. I felt special when I was with her. She taught me basic manners; how to eat w a knife and a fork, she was kind and generous to me. I felt her love for me.

I had a probation officer who kept her word to me, Sarah Hill, I will always remember her. She did what she said she would do. I did not have adults in my life that were consistent about anything. Even for food and basic care. Sarah told me she would lock me up if I didn't do what she said and I, being the rebellious kid I was, I'd find myself locked up. I respected her for that, even though I hated being locked up. She treated me with concern and care she wanted better for me and I knew it.

Thank God, He brought people into my life to help me survive the chaos. He has probably brought people into your life too. I have always believed in God, and I prayed often as a child, but I didn't meet Jesus until I was 40.

I didn't start influencing my sons with Jesus and the church until then.

However, when I became a believer God told me, me and my household would serve him, and I have stood on that promise. Today, Jaeden, has been walking with God for about 16 years and he and Niki have a relationship founded on Christ and they are raising my granddaughter Riah in the church.

Halleluiah !! My other son Ryan, I am still believing for him to come to Christ. Even my mom received Christ a few months ago. God is faithful, he keeps his promises!

The Bible is clear about how we are to treat our parents. The fifth commandment says, **“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12)..**

This commandment, and the blessing attached to it, are repeated throughout the old and new testaments.

But what does it mean to “honor thy father and mother?”

The Oxford English Dictionary says honor means “to regard with great respect or high esteem.” It also describes honor as “something regarded as a rare opportunity and bringing pride and pleasure; a privilege.” Both describe what it means to honor your parents.

When honoring our parents, we show them respect, accept their authority, obey them, and appreciate them.

Today although my mother wasn't present throughout my childhood, I honor her, and I care for her. God did a work in my heart and if you're struggling, I believe he can do it for you too.

The enemy wants you to hold unforgiveness and resentments, don't let that be.

The reason I talk about mothers that may not have been present or capable of loving you the way you needed, is because you may struggle with it. I know I did for many years. When I looked for a card to give my mom it had to be very simplistic, Happy Mother's Day, I love you. I still give my mom those kinds of cards. **Although God has changed my heart towards my mom, who I once distained. God softened my heart, I forgave her and I love my mom dearly.** My mom is 96 years old now and she is not the same lady she was when I was a kid growing up. My heart hurts for her, I know she didn't know better at the time.

I believe as we gain wisdom and maturity, we can examine our own hearts and weaknesses. This teaches us compassion for others' weaknesses too. Grace and Mercy along with forgiveness are great healers. **No matter what we can always pray for our mothers. God loves our moms.** God has loved us even when we were lost in our sins. Today let your mom off the **hook and if you hold some things against her, ask God to heal your heart and celebrate her, you have life because of her.**

Women are the life bearers, I believe there's a reason as to why God gave woman the special gift of being able to bring another life into this world, and I believe it is due to their ability to love and nurture, a gift he imparted to them.

The Persistent Love of God

The untiring love of a mother serves to point us to One that is greater – to God’s love. We can compare God’s persistent love, to a mother’s persistent love.

Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comfort her child, so I will comfort you."

In these beautiful words we have one of the sweetest and tenderest pictures of the character of God. And that revelation is not in the New Testament, but in the Old! In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us to think of God as our Father. But here in the Old Testament, God is likened unto a comforting mother.

The persistent love of a good mother points us to the greater love we see in Jesus. For those who had a good mom, who had a mom that loved them despite their foolishness, you may be more able to understand what it means that God won’t quit on them because a mother’s deep love won’t quit on her child.

For us who did not have a mom like that, we may struggle a bit more to believe and understand God’s love for us. However, we will see this truth as we believe and learn of his character and the great sacrifices God made through Jesus.

We may not think we are loveable because our own parents didn’t love us well. I want to say that is a lie from the pits of hell. We are loved!

What is awesome about the love of God is that He shows it most often in the strangest places, and to the weirdest (coolest) people. Most often He doesn't go for the best and brightest, the most loveable, but instead chooses the small, weak, foolish, pitiable, faltering, failing, down and out, unlovable people that no one would pick. Special people like us, who are very loveable and loved by God.

Let's look at a few mothers in the bible, none of them was perfect, yet each showed strong faith in God. God, in turn, rewarded them for their confidence in him.

These mothers lived in an age when women were often treated as second-class citizens, yet God appreciated their true worth, just as he does today. Motherhood is one of life's highest callings. Learn how mothers in the Bible put their hope in the God of the Impossible, and how he proved that such hope is always well-placed. This is another good reason I know we are to pray for future generations.

Eve was the first woman and the first mother. Without a single role model or mentor, she paved the maternal way to become "Mother of All the Living." Her name means "living thing," or "life."

Jochebed, the mother of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, is one of the underappreciated mothers in the Bible, yet she also showed tremendous faith in God. **To avoid the mass slaughter of Hebrew boys, she set Moses in the Nile River, hoping someone would find him and raise him. God so worked that he was found by Pharaoh's daughter. Jochebed even became her own son's nurse, ensuring that Israel's great leader would grow up under the godly influence of his mother during his most formative years.** As moms we can worry about our children's future, rest assured he has the outcome figured out.

Hannah's story is one of the most touching in the entire Bible. Like several other mothers in the Bible, she knew what it meant to suffer long years of barrenness, there are women today who suffer with this too.

In Hannah's case she was cruelly taunted by her husband's other wife. But Hannah never gave up on God. Finally, her heartfelt prayers were answered. She gave birth to a son, Samuel, then did something entirely selfless to honor her promise to God. She gave him to the priesthood; he became a prophet. God favored Hannah with five more children, bringing great blessing to her life. Isn't God good!

Elizabeth was another of the miracle mothers in the Bible. She conceived and gave birth to a son they named him John, as an angel had instructed.

Like Hannah before her, Elizabeth dedicated her son to God, and like Hannah's son, he also became a great prophet, John the Baptist. Elizabeth's joy was complete when her relative Mary visited her, pregnant with the future Savior of the World.

Mary was the most honored mother in the Bible, the human mother of Jesus, who saved the world from its sins. Although she was only a young, humble peasant, Mary accepted God's will for her life.

Mary suffered enormous shame and pain, yet never doubted her God for a moment. Mary stands as highly favored by God, a shining example of obedience and submission to the Father's will. Sometimes we may suffer great pain at the loss of children who have gone home before us. Mary understood this.

These stories of these great mothers also had times of struggle and hardships. Mothers who handed their children over to someone else to raise because they thought it best for their child or they were asked to do so. **That is sacrificial love. The sacrifices of motherhood last throughout our lifetimes. We do not stop being mothers because our children grow up, we are always their mother. We are no longer intricately involved in their lives, but we are mom.**

These women of the bible are all examples of mothers who loved their children and honored God with how they lived and raised them.

Proverbs 31:25-27 "Strength and honor are her clothing; she is confident about the future. Her mouth is full of wisdom; kindly teaching is on her tongue. She is vigilant over the activities of her household; she doesn't eat the food of laziness."

These verses can make us feel inadequate. They are not meant to do that, they are meant to instruct us. God matures us along the way.

Motherhood is about sacrifice. Going through childbirth in and of itself is a lot for women to bear. Yet, they do it again and again because the pain is worth it. I believe there are many good mothers, more good mothers I'm sure than not so good ones.

When I was 25 years old, I got pregnant with Jaden. He changed the trajectory of my life. God used him to help me grow up and be a better person. Because of my own childhood I did not want to bring him through the same struggles or pain that I suffered. I wanted to be present even though I didn't know how to be after he was born, I began drinking and using again when he was 3 months old for about a year and a half. **BUT God set me up to get sober through working at Stanton detox many years ago.** I wanted to get sober but had no idea how to do it. God

opened that door for me. I walked through it and raised my sons in a sober home. **They grew up with much more stability than I had, they went to the same schools, had food to eat every day and decent clothes to wear. They had parents that were present. I loved them and they knew it, I nurtured them I was there for them to the best of my ability at the time.** There are still things I know I could have done better, but I didn't know better then. I had another son 6 years later, Ryan, please pray for him to come to know the Lord.

God is faithful and being a mom is a great joy and a special privilege that I have been blessed with

Today, not just on mother's day but everyday may we honor our moms because of who they are and what they sacrificed.

I want to honor our mothers today and thank them for all they have done for us and praise God for them,

In closing I want to read a poem that I found that I believe depicts a mother sacrifice well.

“Before I was a Mom”

By Suzana Haertzen

Before I was a Mom...I made and ate hot meals. I had unstained clothing. I had quiet conversations on the phone.

Before I was a Mom... I slept as late as I wanted and never worried about how late I got into bed. I brushed my hair and my teeth every day.

Before I was a Mom... I cleaned my house each day. I never tripped over toys or forgot words to lullabies.

Before I was a Mom... I didn't worry whether or not my plants were poisonous. I never thought about Immunizations.

Before I was a Mom... I had never been puked on, pooped on, spit on, chewed on, peed on or pinched by tiny fingers. I had complete control of my mind, my thoughts, and my body. I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom... I never held down a screaming child so that doctors could do tests or give shots. I never looked into teary eyes and cried. I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin. I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

Before I was a Mom... I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put it down. I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt. I never knew that

something so small could affect my life so much. I never knew that I could love someone so much. I never knew I would love being a Mom.

Before I was a Mom... I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside my body. I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby. I didn't know that bond between a mother and her child. I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so important.

Before I was a Mom... I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay. I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the heartache, the wonderment, or the satisfaction of being a Mom. I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much love before I was a Mom.

Moms can you stand up please? Lets give them a hand.

Happy Mothers day ladies!