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| Gen 3:14-21  Luke 1:26-38 | Mothers Matter  (Mother’s Day) | Pinelands – 9am – 14/05/2023  Thornton – 10:30am – 14/05/2023 |

Happy Mother’s Day…

I hope and pray that your day is a special one,

Filled with lots of joy and celebration.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day let us also remember, for some,

It might not be as big-a-celebration as for others.

For some, Mother’s Day can be a very difficult day…

Many women would love to have become a mother,

but for some reason they could not.

For some, this day reminds them of struggle and hardship.

Separation from children who live far, far away

Children who have been lost through…

circumstances and even death.

So join me in pray as we pray for all mother in our midst…

**Let us Pray…**

Lord we thank you for the role that mothers play in the family unit.

Thank you for their teachings, their wisdom, their patience, and understanding. Thank you for the physical, emotional, and spiritual gifts they possess to raise children and keep families together.

We pray Lord that you will help mothers across the world to be a

blessing to their children and families. When delivering affirmation or discipline, help them to find words and actions that carry your love.

We also pray that children and families will honour and respect the mothers

in their midst.

Lord for mothers who find this day especially difficult. We pray that you will encourage them with affirmation, forgive them for doubting their worth and remind them of your perfect love and grace freely given to them.

For those mothers who grieve today. Lord we ask for your comfort to surround them and for your peace and presence to cover their minds and thoughts.

Thank you Lord for Mothers and all they mean to us.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

AMEN

**SERMON…**

A man came home from work one afternoon & found his three small children outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud. Some of their toys were scattered across the lawn & on the driveway. The door of his wife’s car was wide open, and so was the front door of their house.

Surprised at this, he rushed inside & was confronted with evidence of complete chaos. A lamp had been knocked over. The TV was loudly blaring on a cartoon channel, and the family room was littered with toys

and children’s clothing.

He went into the kitchen. The sink was filled with dirty dishes, breakfast food had been spilled on the counter, the refrigerator door was ajar, and dog food was scattered all over the floor.

Very concerned now, and fearing the worst, he frantically began looking for his wife, heading up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes as he went. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened to her.

Rushing into their bedroom, he saw her.

Still in her pajamas, curled up on their bed, reading a novel.

She looked up, smiled at him, and asked him how his day had been.

Completely bewildered, he looked at her and asked,

***“What happened here today?”***

Again she smiled and then answered,

***“You know, every day when you come home from work***

***you ask me what in the world I do all day long?”***

**“Yes,”** he replied.

She answered, **’Well, today, I didn’t do it.’**

**TODAY** I want to introduce you to TWO Mothers in Scripture.

**The first MOTHER** is **EVE…** the ***“MOTHER OF ALL HUMANITY.”***

We all know the **Creation Story…**

In the beginning of time,

God created **Adam and Eve,**

Placed them in a beautiful garden. *(Paradise)*

He gave them the entire garden as their own,

except for the fruit tree in the middle of the garden.

The Serpent *(satan)* came along and tempted **Eve…**

He sowed seeds of doubt in **Eve’s** mind.

In the end… **Eve** ate of the forbidden fruit…

and offered it to **Adam…**

Who also ate the fruit.

Because of **Adam** and **Eve’s** disobedience, sin entered the world.

Along with **SIN** came great pain and heartbreak.

**Pain** in Child Birth

**Work** hard to survive

**Eve…** Gave birth to her Children

She witnessed them growing up,

Raised them and Disciplined them.

*(Stopped them fighting as all brothers do)*

**Lived through** her son **Cain** killing **Abel** *(Gen 4:8).*

Saw the world descend into chaos.

**THOUSANDS of years later…**

We read about a Second **MOTHER…** **Mary,**

the ***MOTHER OF JESUS,***

Known as the ***MOTHER OF GOD.***

**Mary..** Was a young teenage girl when an angel visited her…

Told her she would have a Child…

***Jesus the Messiah…*** **The Son of God.**

**Mary** responds… ***“I am the Lord’s servant, may it***

***happen to me as you have said.”***

**9 Months later**, in Bethlehem,

**Mary** gave birth to Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah.

**12 Years after that…**

Jesus gets accidently left behind in the Temple.

*(One can imagine how Mary felt when she lost her boy (Luke 2:41-50)*

**In that time…**

**Mary** watched her son grow up… **Jesus** learned from His mother.

**Mary…** Taught him how to **dress** Himself,

Taught him how to **eat** with manners.

Taught Him how to **count,** and how to **sing** songs.

The Bible tells us, ***“Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom***

***gaining favour with God and people”***

*(Luke 2:52).*

**At the Wedding at Cana…** **Mary** was the reason for **Jesus’** first miracle.

They were at a wedding and the wine ran out.

**Mary** spoke to **Jesus** about the problem.

Jesus commanded the servants to fill six stone jars full

of water and to serve the guests. They were hesitant to obey his crazy command, but Mary told them…

***“Do whatever he tells you.”*** *(John 2:5)*

**Mary** also experienced great **pain.**

She watched her son being **executed** in a most horrible way.

She stood at the foot of the cross and looked up into his eyes.

*She maybe wondered* if everything the angle had told her…

was wrong.

*If Jesus was the Son of God,*

*How could he hang dying on a Cross?*

In that moment, Jesus showed how much he cared for his mother.

He said to Mary, ***“He is your son,”***

and He said to John, ***“She is your mother.”*** *(John 19:26-27)*

**Finally…** **Mary,** the Mother of Jesus,

Was there to see the empty tomb. *(Luke 24:10).*

**Let’s compare these two mothers.**

In some ways they were similar.

Both women were mothers.

Both women experienced pain and suffering.

Both saw a son die.

Both loved their children.

**But in other ways**, these two mothers are ***very different:***

One mother was disobedient and brought **SIN** in the world,

the other mother was obedient…

and brought a **Saviour** into the world.

One mother was unwilling to do God’s will,

the other was willing to do God’s will.

One mother listened to the voice of Satan,

the other mother listened to the voice of God.

One mother raised Cain,

the other mother raised Jesus.

One mother brought death into the world,

the other mother brought eternal life into the world.

**MARY** **is a great example for us to follow.**

So, what lessons can we learn from **Mary**? *(Even if we are not mothers)*

I would suggest we take **Mary’s** words to heart and make them our own.

**Firstly… Have faith in God…**

**We should say with Mary,** ***“I am the Lord’s servant”***

**ARE WE?...** Do we view our relationship with Jesus that way?

*As a SERVANT?*

Do we view our Lord in that way?

*As our LORD?*

Remember our **Covenant Prayer…**

***I am no longer my own, but Yours.***

***I freely and heartily yield all things***

***to your pleasure and disposal.***

Are we **honestly prepared** to be the Lord’s Servant…

To SERVE Jesus in every possible way?

**Can we say…** like **Mary…** ***“I AM THE LORD’S SERVANT!”***

**Secondly… Be Obedient to Jesus…**

**We should do what Mary told the servants to do,**

***“Do whatever He tell you to.”***

How strong are we on being OBEDIENT to Christ?

Do we do what he asks us to do?

Do we do what He commands us to do?

**Do we?... Forgive others…**

So much of Christ’s teachings point to FORGIVENESS

**Forgive…** Those who have wronged us…

Family Members, Friends

Those who irritate us…

Those with whom…

we have a GRIPE

Those we have not even met.

**Do we?... Serve in the way he calls us to?**

Those around us… Helping them

**Do we Share the Gospel?...**

In our Families, With our Friends.

***Or do we think…*** Obedience is just for others?

**Thirdly… Mary** reminds us…

**Know that Jesus can do miracles…**

**Mary knew Jesus could do miracles.**

If Jesus can turn water into wine,

He can turn your problem into a miracle.

If Jesus can be Raised from the dead,

He can surely raise us above our Troubles.

Is our FAITH strong enough…

To believe God will see us through…

all situations and circumstances.

All the Changes in our modern day world

Challenges of living life today

***OR…*** Do we Doubt IT?

May we say with **MARY…**

***I am the Lord’s SERVANT***

***I will do WHATEVER He tells me to.***

***I know he can do MIRACLES.***

**Genesis 3:14-21 God Pronounces Judgment**

Then the Lord God said to the snake, “You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: From now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel.”

And he said to the woman, “I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him.”

And he said to the man, “You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil again.”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all human beings. And the Lord God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.

**Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Is Announced**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!”

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, “Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!”

Mary said to the angel, “I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do.”

“I am the Lord's servant,” said Mary; “may it happen to me as you have said.” And the angel left her.