

ESF, Lord's day message
5/12/2019

God's Love in Motherhood

Text: Selected Scriptures

Video projection

Mother's Day Video: Mighty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa-7jtvi7J4>

Mothering is one of the hardest jobs in this world. When a mother gives birth to and raises a child, she faces many trials and dangers. However, mothering is a most rewarding and blessed job, because through mothers God dispenses His love. God's love given through mothers is more powerful and more precious than any other love man can know.

Compassionate love

God's love is compassionate love. When God loves us, He loves us compassionately.

With God's compassionate love for us, He is always gracious and patient. Exodus 34:6 "*And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness'*" With his compassionate love, He forgives us endlessly (Nehemiah 9:17).

The love God gives us through our mothers is compassionate love. God brings His comfort and healing grace to us through our mother's compassionate love. Isaiah 66:13 says, "*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.*"

Mother's compassionate love for her child understands and shares all things in the child's life, especially when the child is weak, or sick, or in pain, or makes mistakes. Mother's compassionate love touches every child's heart more deeply than anything else in this world. Mother's compassionate love is always merciful, tender and gentle.

The compassionate love of our mothers works in our lives as a powerful healing balm.

During World War I, an American soldier was wounded on the battlefields of France. He was taken to a hospital, and finally brought back to America. He was in critical condition when he reached an American hospital-his eyes blinded, his mind beclouded, and his body mangled. His old mother traveled many miles to his bedside and laid her hand on his brow. Instantly he said: "It's my mother's hand! I know it anywhere!" The mother had not spoken, but he knew the touch of her hand!

Children! Be thankful to your moms for their compassionate love for you. Thank God for His compassionate love given to you through your moms.

Mothers thank God for His gift of compassionate love dispensed through your mothering: "God! Thank you for giving me your compassionate love to take care of my children."

Sacrificial Love.

God's love for us is sacrificial love. To love us God sacrificed His own Son. Romans 8: 32, *"He (God) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"*

God dispenses His sacrificial love to us through our mothers' love. Most mothers love their children more than they love themselves. They are ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of their children.

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms. Suddenly she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination. When the blizzard had subsided, her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they

unwrapped the child, to their great surprise, they found the baby alive and well. She had covered her body over her baby and given her life for her child.

When we remember our mothers, we can remember their genuine sacrifices for us. In their sacrifices, we have received the unfathomable love of God.

Let's remember our mothers' sacrificial love and make every effort to honor them. Let them be proud of their children through our lives. And at the same time, let's remember the sacrificial love of Christ, which has a common ground with our mothers' sacrifice but surpasses any earthly mothers' sacrifice. So that we can share that love with many people we care for until we die and meet our moms in heaven.

Mothers! Have you ever sacrificed your precious lives for your children? Praise God for it. Because God has given you His sacrificial love through your lives. It is the most blessed privilege. Through your sacrifices God is pouring His love onto your children. While you love your child sacrificially, you understand and receive God's sacrificial love for your life.

Your children may not understand your love now. They may not appreciate your sacrifice now. They may even be rebellious now. But in the end, they will understand. In the end, they will appreciate it. That sacrificial love is an essential nutrition for your children's soul even if they cannot recognize it now. Most of all, God knows your heart and He will comfort and reward you for your sacrificial love for your children.

Children! Have you ever recognized the precious value of the sweat and tears of your mothers who have sacrificed so much for you? Show your heartfelt appreciation to them for their sacrificial love now. Show your thankfulness for their sacrifice before it's too late.

Love with discipline

While God loves us compassionately and sacrificially, He does not tolerate our sins. God fights against our sins and helps us live holy lives. While God loves us, He encourages us to repent of our sins.

Also, God disciplines us to become mature and to bear fruit in our lives. *“...the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.God is treating you as his children. everyone undergoes discipline”* (Hebrews 12:6-8).

Though God dispenses His compassionate and sacrificial love to children through their mothers, He encourages mothers neither to tolerate their children’s sins nor to spoil them. God wants all mothers to take care of their children with holy love.

Also, God wants all mothers to discipline their children to obey His words and build up noble characters. Mothers may feel sorry when their children go through pains when God disciplines them or mother themselves discipline them. But mothers must not waver with emotions. Moms need to control their emotions and let their children endure discipline and grow through discipline. They must believe that every child needs God’s discipline and God uses mothers to carry God’s discipline.

One day when I was a little boy, I stole some money from my mother’s purse and put the purse back in the place where it was. I thought she would never know that I had stolen the money. But somehow, she found out that I had stolen the money. She made me kneel down in front of her and pinched my leg hard. It was so painful that I screamed. And she sternly warned me not to steal anything not only from her purse but from any other place. Although it was so painful at that time, my mom’s such strict discipline helped me always to obey one of the ten commandments, “Do not steal.”

Have you ever been disciplined by your mom? Thank her for her discipline to make you mature and noble. Thank God for His discipline through your mom. Always remember her love in the discipline.

Love through faith and prayer

God dispenses His love through faith and prayer of our mothers. Hebrews 11:23 says that God's love for Moses was given through his mother's faith: *By faith Moses' parents (mother) hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.* Through the faith of Moses' mom, God saved the life of baby Moses and raised him to be a great leader for the nation of Israel.

God builds children's faith through their mothers' faith. Paul reminded Timothy of this truth in 2 Timothy 1:5 *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

Mother, if you are a believer, thank God for His gift of faith. God's plan through your faith is not only blessing you but also blessing your children, your grandchildren and their descendants, generation after generation. God's assures you of the blessing with this promise; *"I, the Lord, will show love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments"* (Exodus 20:5-6). Children, if your mom lives by faith in God and teaches you to live by faith, thank God and thank your mom. Your mom's faith is the most precious gift and inheritance. It is a gift you can't get anywhere else.

God also listens to a mother's prayer for her children with special attention

There was a woman whose daughter was very sick. The sick daughter was suffering terribly from demon-possession. The mother was a Canaanite, gentile woman, whom the Jewish people thought had no right to receive God's blessing. But she came to Jesus and earnestly asked

Him to heal her daughter. But Jesus tested her faith by saying that He came only for the Israelites. Jesus even said that to listen to her prayer and heal her daughter was like taking the children's bread and tossing it to the dogs. But she did not give up. She humbled herself before Jesus and kept asking, "Yes. Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then, Jesus answered, "*Woman, you have great faith! Your requested is granted.*" And the daughter was healed from that hour (Matthew 15:21-28).

Mothers! God wants to bless you and your children through your prayer for them. Don't be discouraged even if you are not rich or don't have what this world can offer. You can give your children the best blessing through your prayer. You can be the best mom when you pray for your children.

There was a mother who was praying day and night for the safety of her son who was on the battlefield. One day her son was with five other soldiers in a trench. In the trench, they were trying to protect their bodies from flying bullets and bomb explosions. At one point a bomb shell landed where the six soldiers were. It was very close to them. So, all of them could have been killed instantly if the bomb had exploded at that spot. But the bomb shell did not explode because the place where the bomb shell hit had deep mud and the shell buried its nose into the deep mud. After tense silence, one of them said: "Our mothers have been praying for us."

Mothers! You may not be able to see the results of your prayers for your children for a long time. When your children are still rebellious against your instructions, although you are constantly praying for them, you may be tempted to stop praying for them. But you should not give up on praying for your children. Pray persistently. Because God will never ignore your persistent prayer for your children just as He did not ignore the persistent request of the Canaanite woman.

If you have a mom who prays for you, be grateful to her for her prayer.

Because you receive God's greatest blessing through her prayer. God directly blesses you through your mom's prayer. Don't compare your mother with anything or any person in this world. Be thankful to your mother for her prayer for you.

What if there is no mother's love?

There may be some mothers who have failed in their mothering. Instead of taking care of their children with God's love and grace, some mothers may have been harsh to their children and may have hurt them deeply. But mothers, you still have a chance to dispense God's love to your children. Ask God's forgiveness and grace for your mistakes and sins. Ask God to heal you and make you a graceful person. Ask God to help you live by faith. Ask God to fill your heart with His love so that you can share God's love with your children from now on. Ask your children for their forgiveness. God will forgive you and fill your heart with His love.

There may be children who have never received God's love through their moms or have been hurt by their dysfunctional or harsh moms. You must know that God has been merciful to you. God's heart has been broken while your heart has been broken. God wants to fill you with His love which is far deeper than mother's love. Isaiah 49:15 says: *Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!* With this love of God, forgive your mom. Pray that God may touch your mom's heart with His forgiveness and grace. Pray that God may give her gift of faith so that she may live by faith. God will pour His grace unto your mom and eventually you and her can be reconciled and share God's love.