Mother’s Day sermon

Psalm 127:4
‘Children are a heritage from the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his gift’

Prayer: Heavenly Father, speak to us today, especially to mothers. Equip each one of us to raise up others who will know your comfort, love and compassion. Amen!

Introduction - What my mother taught me!

My mother taught me RELIGION.
“You’d better pray that will come out of the carpet.”

My mother taught me TIME TRAVEL.
“If you don’t straighten up, I’m going to knock you into the middle of next week!”

My mother taught me FORESIGHT.
“Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident.”

My mother taught me IRONY.
“Keep crying, and I’ll give you something to cry about.”

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.
“Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!”

My mother taught me about WEATHER.
“This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.”

My mother taught me about ENVY.
“There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don’t have wonderful parents like you do.”

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.
“Just wait until we get home.”

My mother taught me about RECEIVING.
“You are going to get it when you get home!”

My mother taught me HUMOUR.
“If you fall off that wall and break your legs, don’t come running to me.”

My mother taught me WISDOM.
“When you get to be my age, you’ll understand.”

My mother taught me about JUSTICE.
“One day you’ll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you”.

- Unknown
“Motherhood was the great equaliser for me; I started to identify with everybody... as a mother, you have that impulse to wish that no child should ever be hurt, or abused, or go hungry, or not have opportunities in life”

Annie Lennox

Over and over in scripture we see how God has a lot of time for mothers! Being God, He understands their pain, their joy, their devotion, their sleepless nights, their fears, their challenges and their hopes and dreams for their children. Let’s look at three stories of mums in the Bible.

• A Mother Who Invested

In Exodus 2 we read of Jochabed who must have feared the worst when the order was given for Hebrew boys to be killed. As a loving mother she sought to protect her son Moses by hiding him away in a basket while her daughter kept watch. You remember the story – Pharoah’s daughter found the basket with the baby inside and made a decision to raise the child in the palace. Thank God for the wisdom of his sister Miriam who quickly offered the support of a Hebrew woman to look after him in his early years. You guessed it - it was Moses’s mum! God answered Jochabed’s prayer and rescued her son giving her the opportunity to instil great values and principles for life that never left him.

What a privilege it is to be able to influence a child. ‘Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it’ Proverbs 22:6 Moses grew up to be a humble but great leader who would face many challenges but remain faithful to God throughout his life. In Psalm 90 we read a prayer of Moses. Verse 16 says, ‘May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children’ I’m sure that his mother told him stories of God’s provision that would serve him well in the future. Now his prayer was that the generations to follow would know of His goodness and mercy to them.

Challenge: What are you doing to influence the next generation to trust in God’s faithfulness?

• A Mother Who Sacrificed

In 1 Samuel we read of another mother whose name was Hannah. She had longed for a child but without success. In her desperation she cried out to God in prayer. In the course of time Hannah fell pregnant and gave birth to a little boy who she named Samuel. Soon after, she took him to the temple to dedicate him there. She said, ‘I prayed for this child and the Lord granted me what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord’ The verse goes on to say ‘And he worshipped the Lord there’

What an incredible act of love, an enormous sacrifice for a mum who in the natural, would only want to ‘keep’ her child. The little boy’s response was to
worship the Lord – what a great example. Hannah gave to her son Samuel who would eventually become Israel’s prophet. It says in 1 Samuel 2:26 that ‘Samuel grew in stature and in favour with God and man’ The word also says in verse 19 that every year Hannah made him a new robe. Of course he was growing bigger and outgrowing his clothes and needed a bigger jacket, both in a material sense but also in a spiritual sense. Little by little, God was going to increase his capacity and bring him into greater things. It would start by sweeping floors and lighting lamps in the temple. It would then grow to hearing God’s audible voice and bringing His word to the High Priest, anointing Kings and judging the nation.

**Challenge:** Every child needs to be released at the right time. Are you limiting potential by being too protective or are you trusting God with your child that little by little, they might become all that He wants them to be?

- **A Mother Who Grieved**

  In Luke 7:11-17 we read the story of how Jesus brought a widow’s only son back to life! She had nothing and now no-one. Her future had been taken from her. Her hope had died with her son. As she stood there weeping Jesus came and had such compassion for her. He said to the widow, ‘Do not weep’ Then He touched the bier and said ‘Young man I say to you arise’. Perhaps in your life there is great sadness as a parent? Maybe you can relate to this woman or perhaps a child has turned away from you or turned their back on God? Can I tell you that God has such compassion for you today and wants to restore your hope and your joy.

  **Challenge:** Don’t hold back from giving Jesus your tears, your sorrows and your disappointments today. He sees and He knows and He cares.

Around the developing world many mothers face the daily struggle of bringing up their children in hopeless situations, lacking the very basics that they need to do so. As we think about our own children maybe we could also think about these mums who would love, like Jochebed, to invest more deeply into their child and prepare them for the future. Or mums like Hannah who would gladly sacrifice to see their child released into all that God has for them. Or mums like the widow, who just needed someone to reach out and help them in their pain.


As I come to a close on this special Mother’s Day I would like to ask you to consider being a helping hand to a mother who would like so much more for her children. Today will you sponsor a child and help make an investment into a young life to prepare them for a great future?
Will you help a mother create the kind of environment where her children can develop and grow physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually?

Will you reach out with compassion and bring hope to a mother who can only see loss and pain?

Why not sponsor a child for £25 per month and make a difference today!

Pray

www.compassionuk.org/mothersday