

The Heart of a Mother

May 12, 2015

DAY 1: The heart of a mother

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

1. Mother's Day is a time of remembrance, gratitude, and joy. We celebrate our mothers. But for a lot of people, Mother's Day is bittersweet. For some, their experience with mother was less than ideal; for others it was painful. When you think of your mom, what comes to mind?

2. When Paul went to Thessalonica he met people, and shared the Lord with them. Those who responded to the gospel became Christians and started a brand new church there.

3. Paul describes how he related to them using the imagery of a mother with her own children. Under each description, jot down what comes to your mind about how a mother relates in these ways:

a. "Gentle" -

b. "Nursing" -

c. "Tenderly cares" -

d. "Her own children" -

4. This week we'll look at three kinds of a mothers' love.

a. Sacrificial love.

b. Influential love.

c. Delightful love.

5. Which of these three mothers' loves intrigues you the most?

DAY 2: Sacrificial love

1. Being a mom requires lots of sacrifices. Some of those are "small" daily sacrifices, and some of them are big sacrifices.

a. What small sacrifices did you see your own mom make?

b. What bigger sacrifices did you see your own mom make?

2. Moses' mother was an extraordinary woman. During the time that she gave birth to Moses, Pharaoh's edict was that all Hebrew male babies were to be killed by the Egyptian mid-wives. Moses' mother did not go along with the edict. (Ex. 1:15-22)

Exodus 2:2-3 ...she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

3. In a sense, Moses' mother had to let her son go every day. His survival, life, and well-being was more important than her attachment. She hid him in the bulrushes of the Nile River. What goes through your mind as you think about the thought of losing your baby boy every day?

4. In the meantime, Pharaoh's daughter finds baby Moses. (Ex. 2:4-6). Lo and behold, Moses' sister happened to be hanging around and offered a solution. "You know, this baby is going to need a nursing mother. Want me to go find one?" Splendid idea! (Ex. 2:7-8). Now, look what God opens up for this wonderful mother...

Exodus 2:9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

Exodus 2:10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

5. Moses' mother had to sacrifice being present with her own son for the sake of his future! Have you seen sacrificial love at work? How?

DAY 3: Influential love.

1. A mother is always in the "shaping" business, shaping character and values.

2 Timothy 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

2. When Paul wrote to Timothy, what struck Paul about Timothy's background?

3. Your faith may be the closest faith your child will ever see.

2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

4. How was Timothy's mother shaping him according to 2 Tim. 3:15?

5. Moses instructed the people to shape the next generation. Underline every "to do" item in these verses:

Deuteronomy 6:4-10 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother.

6. What warnings does Solomon give to his son?

7. How are you doing in observing the commandments and teachings you have received?

DAY 4: Delightful love.

1. God uses the imagery of motherhood to describe how God, and a faithful Jerusalem had been a mother to two kings. Unfortunately, the two kings went dreadfully astray, leading to the captivity of the nation, Judah.

2. In these verses, underline the important images of motherhood.

Ezekiel 19:2 "What a lioness was your mother among the lions! She lay down among the young lions and reared her cubs.

³ She brought up one of her cubs, and he became a strong lion. He learned to tear the prey and he devoured men.

⁴ The nations heard about him, and he was trapped in their pit. They led him with hooks to the land of Egypt.

⁵ "When she saw her hope unfulfilled, her expectation gone, she took another of her cubs and made him a strong lion.

⁶ He prowled among the lions, for he was now a strong lion. He learned to tear the prey and he devoured men.

⁷ He broke down their strongholds and devastated their towns. The land and all who were in it were terrified by his roaring.

⁸ Then the nations came against him, those from regions round about. They spread their net for him, and he was trapped in their pit.

⁹ With hooks they pulled him into a cage and brought him to the king of Babylon. They put him in prison, so his roar was heard no longer on the mountains of Israel.

¹⁰ "Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard planted by the water; it was fruitful and full of branches because of abundant water.

¹¹ Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler's scepter. It towered high above the thick foliage, conspicuous for its height and for its many branches.

3. What struck you most from this passage?

4. How was motherhood compared to a lioness?

5. How was motherhood symbolized by delight and strength? (v. 10-11)

DAY 5: Committed love.

1. A mother's love is a combination of the tenacity of a pit bull mixed with the gentleness of a lamb.

2. A mother becomes the president of her child's fan club, even when he/she gives her little reason to "cheer."

3. Sometimes, kids fall flat on their faces, and fail at something. Mothers never give up on their kids, no matter how badly they fail.

John 19:25 Therefore the soldiers did these things. But there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

4. The mother of Jesus was present at the crucifixion of her own son!

5. What words come to mind to describe the anguish of a mother?

Isaiah 49:15 Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? ...I will not forget you!

6. God uses the imagery of a nursing mother to depict the exact kind of love He has for His people!

7. Is there ever a time God "forgets" you?

8. A mother's love is sacrificial, influential, delightful, and committed. Which of these loves challenges your own ability to love?