

2010 MOTHERS DAY: A MOTHER'S LOVE

I Thessalonians 2:7-12

Thank you mom's.

I want to wish you all a happy mothers day.

I read an article the other day that said,

SLIDE----"By the time a child reaches 18,
a mother has had to handle some extra 18,000 hours of child-generated work.
In fact, women who never had children enjoy the equivalent
of an extra three months a year in leisure time!
Over 18 years that is 4.5 extra years.
No wonder women wonder if they want children.
Or even to be married.

Dogs and cats are better than kids ...they eat less,
don't ask for money all the time,
are easier to train,
usually come when called (this does not apply to cats),
never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends,
don't smoke or drink, don't worry about having to buy the latest fashions,
don't wear your clothes, and don't need a gazillion dollars for college.
Also, if they get pregnant, you can sell the children!!!

By the way did you hear about the man who found a lamp by the roadside.
He picked it up, rubbed it vigorously, and a genie appeared and said:
"I'll grant you your fondest wish,"
The man thought for a moment, then said,
"I want a spectacular job. A job that no man has ever
succeeded at or has ever attempted to do."
"Poof!" said the genie. "You're a housewife."

SLIDE----We all know that real mom's make sacrifices.
When was the last time a real mother ate a whole candy bar all by herself?
Or drank a coke without any "floaters" in it.
Real Mom have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.
Real Mothers sometimes ask "Why me?"
and get their answer when a little voice says, "Because I love you best."
So today on mother's day let me share with you
The four loves of a mother from I Thessalonians 2
But let me say that this is a love that we all can have.

SLIDE----I. GENTLE LOVE

As apostles of Christ we could have been burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. I Thessalonians 2:7

A mother's love must be gentle

It is a caring love that wants her children to know
they are loved by God.

SLIDE---We weren't aloof with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. I Thess 2:7 MS

Max Lucado in "A Gentle Thunder. Asks moms:

"WHY do you love your newborn child?"

I know it's a silly question, but indulge me.

Why do you?

Think about it, for nine months this baby has brought you pain.

They've made you break out in pimples and waddle like a duck.

Because of them you craved sardines and crackers

and threw up in the morning.

They punched you in the tummy.

They occupied your space and

Then they grew bigger than you expected and wanted out.

Then they wanted food,

They wanted to be held,

They wanted to be changed.

A mother does it because she loved you.

She turned her house into a home.

Mended our wounds,

consoled us in our disappointments,

cheered us on in our achievements.

And best of all she instructed us about life.

It was a Gentle tough love, fair and just

That moved us to be self-disciplined.

And moved us to believe in ourselves.

SLIDE----A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. " JOHN 16:21

Mothers always seem to know their child's needs and capacity.

They may hold a child's hand for a short while, but their hearts forever.

Gentleness is a mark of a mother's love.

SLIDE----II. NURTURING LOVE

8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. I Thessalonians 2:8

The second manifestation of a loving spirit in the words.

"Because you had become so dear to us."

Another translation says: "we are affectionately longing for you."

That is why we wanted to share with you not only the gospel of God, But our lives as well.

A young boy said to his mother, 'How old were you when I was born?' His mother replied, '23.' 'Wow, that's a lot of time we missed spending together.'

Mom's share their lives

Literally give out their lives to their children.

SLIDE----Consider the Godly mother of Samuel.

His mother gave of her self to him.
 She labored for him, and worked for him,
 Every year to bring him new clothes.
 That was before you could pick it up at Target or Herbergers.

**SLIDE----But Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.
 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by
 year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. " I SAMUEL
 2:18-19**

How many of you remember the work it took of your mother
 To keep you in new clothes?

In the spring before Easter
 The hustle of our house would pick up.
 The kitchen was turned into a fabric center.
 Stiff corduroy and other hand me down clothes
 Were laid out on the Kitchen table.

SLIDE----And patterns would be applied for their use with stick pins,
 And mom would cut and sew,
 When we came into the house the only
 Danger was to make sure that you checked your chairs,
 Before you sat down for those lost and abandoned stick pins
 Did you get the point of that?

And out of that pile of cloth the engineer would create
 a coat or shirt, pants or dress,
 And on Easter Sunday we wore them with pride,

Not only did my mother keep our clothes coming,
 But she kept our little bodies healthy as best she could.
 She was a practical nurse,
 She knew when to call in the specialist
 Which was my dad,
 For pulling teeth with a pliers he carried,
 Or a string that he found.
 Or taking the knife that he carried that was always
 Razor sharp, and digging out splinter from our fingers.

But it was mother who comforted us after it was all over.
 Every mother wants to see her child blossom and grow in the right direction.
 That's where the comforting leads us.

**SLIDE---As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be
 comforted in Jerusalem. " ISAIAH 66: 13**

My mother built carefully constructed,
 Vaporizer tents, and would prop them up
 Over the coach and we would lay inside
 While the steam flowed from the kettle
 It would open our lungs to breathing again.
 Add a little vix vapor rub to the mix and in two day
 We were ready to go,
 Our skin all wrinkled up and flaking off

white and shiny like a new born pig.
 I still get a reminiscing high when I smell vix vapor rub.
 And remember a nurturing love of my mother.

But not all mothers are like that.

Just last month, down in Florida,
 they had proposed a law that would have required abortion providers
 to offer pregnant mothers the opportunity to see ultrasounds of their unborn children.
 That's ALL that law would have required.
 The bill did NOT require the mothers to look at the ultrasounds.
 And yet that law died in the Florida senate.
 Because we live in a culture of death
 We live in a society where mother can decrees their children should die.
 (AP – David Royse – May 1, 2008)

**SLIDE----Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the
 son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. " ISAIAH 49:15**
 That is not the nurturing love that God intended.

SLIDE----III. LABORING LOVE

The third mark of a loving mother is in vs. 9

**Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in
 order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. I
 Thessalonians 2:9**

Apostle Paul was talking here about every Jewish boy had to learn a trade.
 Paul's trade was tent making.
 Paul worked by day and preached and taught by night.
 And Paul's hands were not cultured hands of a rich man,
 But the calloused hands of one who worked hard at his trade.

Most mothers' hands of my childhood were not soft and cultured.
 But were calloused and tough from

SLIDE----Working gardens and toiling with wash,
 And cleaning of houses.
 And processing chickens,
 Long hours of canning vegetables,
 washing dishes and mopping floors
 Work worn hands that reflected a loving heart.

My mother took it upon herself to teach us responsibility.
 She planted this huge garden behind the house,
 And then put us in to help weed it,
 All the while she was weeding out of us a
 that spirit of rebellion,
 And self centeredness.
 And uncooperative spirit

And planting in its place responsibility,
 And cooperative nature
 And respect in the family.

That is not easy to do and young mother can be stressed about their children,
Take the young mother who picked up the habit of biting her fingernails down to the
 quick, so her friend advised her to take up yoga. She did, and soon her finger-
 nails were growing normally. Her friend asked her if yoga had totally cured her nervous-
 ness. "No," she replied, "but now I can reach my toe-nails so I bite them instead."

Laboring love requires moms to be multitasked.
 I grew up with a farm mother.
 She not only worked the kitchen but sometime the land.
 Not without risk.
 One day my mother was cultivating corn in the bottom land,
 And when she jumped off the tractor,
 Her arm slipped around the hot muffler of the tractor.
 It burned her arm severely,
 I remember watching my mother in tears as the pain gripped at her,
 Dipping her arm in home made concoction
 Praying out loud to God in a painful voice
 As we two little boys watched wide eyed in tears,
 Fearful of the severity of what had happened.
 And frightened at the prospect of losing mom.
 We were hurt by her hurt.
 We were stymied by our inability to help.
 Yes there is a laboring love.
 And we were determined more than every to honor her.

**SLIDE----Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your
 father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be
 well with you and you may live long on the earth. " EPHESIANS 6:1-3**

SLIDE----IV. GODLY LOVE

**"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother."
 Proverbs 6:20**

Faithfulness is the fourth mark of an effective transformed mother.

My mother behaved devoutly and justly and blamelessly. Vs. 10

The word devout means: intended for a single purpose. –single minded.

A mother's single purpose is to help her children
 See they are God's children
 And God has a plan and a purpose for their lives.
 Every mother should want their children in Church,
 But also that the church should be in them.
 That meant each child must do their part
 And using their talents.
 My mother would volunteer us kids,
 To sing for Sunday worship.
 Then she practiced us.
 We learned at an early age that no one is exempt from serving their Lord.

Godly mother train their children in Godly things.
 I hope you give your children a bible early in life.

My mother did and we were expected to read it.
 Mom didn't read it to us.
 We read it ourselves.
 Every night.
 Mom didn't always pray with us,
 But she expected us to pray by ourselves.

Godly mother are more concerned about
 their child's spiritual appearance than their physical attire.
 Think about it,
 If your children are not in Sunday School
 And youth fellowship,
 In VBS or worship,
 What opportunities are you giving your children
 To meet God and learn to trust him?
 I know even when you do it all right,
 It's still up to the heart of a child.

Monica the mother of Augustine, Prayed for her rebellious son,
 that he would not go as a young man to Rome
 which was then such a wicked place.
 But he slipped away and went anyway.
 She continued to pray,
 And Augustine became a Christian in Rome.

Paul writing to Timothy said:

**SLIDE----I remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your
 grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. II
 TIMOTHY 1:5**

You may be discourage today as a mother,
 Maybe you didn't have the heritage and example of a Godly mother.
 I'm sorry, but don't give up.
 You can break that chain and become what she was not.
 You can be a Godly mother,
 You can set a godly example for your children.

If you are not a mother today,
 Remember that all women have influence history and the spread of Christianity.
 Many single or childless women unselfishly
 Have spread the gospel and the work of Christ
 In their churches and community.

So today we honor all women
 And we have a gift for you to say:
 Thank you for being the faithful hands of God.