

2011 MOTHERS DAY: THREE WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES **Colossians 3:12-17**

Last month a new kind of “American Idol” competition was underway.

By the end of April there would be a new voice behind that loud, squawking Aflac duck.

SLIDE---It seems the original duck voice comedian was let go after “tweeting” several insensitive remarks about the Japanese earthquake and 80 foot tsunami. They are still committed to the duck but not the quack. Evidently “tweets” can silence “quacks.”

SLIDE---The competition for the NEW famous quacker was fierce. 28,000 people inquired on the Aflac website. Someone said: It would have been a lot easier just to look in Washington DC.

We live in a world of Quackery
People who say one thing and do another
People who promise one thing and produce another.
It has even happened to the family and to motherhood.

More and more we hear about Mothers- even young mothers
Who have promised to be faithful in their marriage,
And honorable in their childcare,
Who have simply up and left dad with the kids.
Chasing off for some internet affair,
Or a freer lifestyle in another community.
Children and spouses are left behind with
broken promises and failed relationship.
Children have a difficult time adjusting.
add to that the rising number of divorces, abuse and neglect.

We have a society that is working against anything Christian.
It doesn't take a genius to see our society promoting
alternative lifestyles in our public education agenda
as early as the first grade.
No wonder so many teenagers join the
68 million people with STD in the US
Statistics prove the safest place for any child in America
Is in a two parent home with a mother and father.

We honor you mothers today because

SLIDE---We know that mothering is one of the most difficult things a woman will do. Whether your kids are preschool, elementary, teenagers, college students, or young adults. being a mother can be very trying. But God has given us some Biblical Mother's to look at and learn from them the lesson of encouragement for our lives.

I. **Eve the birth mother of all living.**

Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man and he brought her to the man. Genesis 2:22

God created her perfect,

It wasn't long that Eve was given to Temptation

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. Genesis 3:1

Eve was perfect and yet she could not resist Satan.

We would be foolish to think that we as mothers or fathers

Can resist Satan today on our own power.

The serpent is too crafty,

We cannot withstand him alone.

Add to that Murphys' law of mothering.

1. The later you stay up, the earlier your child will wake up the next morning.

2. The gooier the food, the more likely it is to end up on the carpet.

3. The longer it takes you to make a meal, the less your child will like it.

4. For a child to become clean, something else must become dirty.

6. Toys multiply to fill any space available.

7. Backing the car out of the driveway causes your child to have to go to the bathroom.

No wonder a mother's days can be so troubling?

So confusing and hectic?

And only by the power of the Holy Spirit

Can she withstand.

Because of Eve's temptation and sin,

And then Adams free choice to sin.

Slide---she became the Mother of a Murderer (her son CAIN)

Not a very good start for our world.

It used to be that men were prone to temptation and the attractions of the world.

Women stayed at home and took care of the kids.

But today women have joined the workforce

working side by side with the opposite sex.

Did you know that the fastest growing segment of our society to look at porn on the internet is women. Internet adultery is on the rise destroying lives.

Eve also should have been on guard.

Because the serpent dealt with her pride,

Her power.

She could be like God.

Nobody was going to tell her what to do

Not even God.

That is the same temptation women face today.

They want independence,

No man will tell us what to do.

But God's word says:

In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. I Timothy 3:11

Is your talk malicious?

Do people trust what you say or are you know for exaggeration and lies?

Tragedy follow tragedy

Because Eve sinned.
 Her two boys broke her heart,
 When Cain murdered his own brother Abel.
 For her --death didn't only come to all mankind,
 It had come to her own home.
 Her children had inherited her pride, rebellion and greed.
 IT stars so early in our homes,

I read about the little a little three year old who was caught in the act of stealing her sisters grapes. : Her mother confronted her : "Are you eating your little sister's grapes?" "No," she innocently replied, "I'm helping her share."

We may have a home full of rebellious children.
 Who have dishonored their mother.
 Mocked her, laughed at her.
 Don't give up, keep your head up.
 Trust God.

Children have always tested their parents.

Owen Wister, an old college friend of Theodore Roosevelt, was visiting him at the White House. President Roosevelt's daughter Alice kept running in and out of the room until Wister finally asked if there wasn't something Roosevelt could do to control her. The President said: "Well, I can do one of two things. I can be President of the United States or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both."

Bits & Pieces, December 9, 1993, p. 16.

Don't lose heart.
 Trust God.

John states, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3)

If a mother truly loves her children
 the first and the best thing she can do is be a godly,
 Bible believing mother.
 Only then can she be the Godly influence
 God meant for her to pass on to her children.

Proverbs 31, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."(Proverbs 31:28)

Maybe your problem is not a roving eye or temptation,
 But you find yourself in an abused relationship or
 An abandoned one.
 God understand.
 The Bible reveals a mother just like that in Hagar,

II. Hagar, was an abused woman who was abandoned. (Gen. 21).

Remember the story how Abraham and Sarah
 Were past childbearing years.
 God said he would become the father of many nations.
 But Sarah got impatient and wanted to help God fulfill
 His promise to her husband

So she gave Abraham her Egyptian servant-girl Hagar as a second wife
A concubine,
a woman to bear him children.

Hagar who was many years younger
bore a fine son named Ishmael,
who became the father of the Arab nations.

But God also miraculously fulfilled his promise to Abraham,
And gave Sarah a son named Isaac,
Well she didn't want the younger and beautiful
Hagar and Ishmael hanging around any longer.
So Sarah abused Hagar beat her and had Abraham send them away.

Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. Genesis 16:6

Sadly abuse is still way to common in our day.
1 of 3 women will be abused, raped or beaten in their lifetime.
pregnant women are twice the risk of abuse and battery
40% of assaults begin during the first pregnancy.
What is the matter with this world?

Hagar was abused and now abandoned.
In a burning desert south of Beersheba
In the wilderness of Judea.
Trying to go back to Egypt;
but she wasn't going to make it.

And to Hagar's credit she was a caring mother.
She loved her son Ishmael.
But the bread was gone,
the water skin was empty.
She had placed her child under a bush so
she wouldn't have to watch him die.
Hagar sat down and waited for death.
While Ishmael cried away his life.

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Genesis 21:17

God sent an angel to reassure her

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. Genesis 21:19

What ever the situation you may find yourself today,
I want to assure you that God has not forsaken you.
He still reaches out to exhausted, despondent and abused mothers today.
His voice is still filled with hope.
If you listen you will hear God say:

"God has heard the cry of your children. Don't give up. Don't abandon Him. Look there is a well, there is food, there is living water and the bread of life."

Mothers you matter to God,
 Trust God and he will receive you
 Come to God and he will forgive you and open a new life.
 The world offers nothing but short solutions,
 But God offer eternal ones.

Well, maybe you're a mother here and your children are in danger.
 Sickness, dangerous or wrong friends, or perhaps being bullying at school,

III. God has given us Jochebed

Jochebed was a desperate and deliberate mother.
 Exodus 2 describes the birth of her son Moses,
 Who was to be a great leader of nations.
 Though we have Moses name,
 We do not read of His mother's name until the 6th chapter of Exodus.

Jochebed faced a tremendous problem.
 The boy babies of her people were being drowned in the Nile River
 by a cruel and oppressive government.
 The women were being bullied into abandoning or aborting their children.

That is not unlike our modern godless society
 Where our society teaches children
 are simply biological accidents
 and not the special creation of God.
 Sexual responsibility is simply a joke.

And if a woman has an unexpected pregnancy,
 Well there are alternative ways to get rid of your problem.
 While 1.2 million choose to lose their babies to abortion.
 But now many mother are not able to bear children,
 Because of STD and scars from abortion
 Did you know of the 6 million women who get pregnant every year.
 600,000 lose their baby to miscarriage
 70,000 loose their babies to ectopic or molar pregnancy
 And 26,000 to still birth.
 And another 1.2 million to abortion.

But that was not for Jochebed
 She wasn't about to be bullied even by the ruling government.
 She secretly carried her son to term.
 she hid him for 3 months,
 until he was too old to be hidden any longer.
 Made for him a basket of bulrushes
 dabbed it with tar and pitch.
 put her son in it at the edge of the river
 and sent her older daughter, Miriam to watch "afar off."

You know the story,
 Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe and

saw that little basket floating in the reeds.
 Took the child out of the water and then
 Hired Moses' real mother to nurse him until he was 7 years old.

By giving him up to God she got him back from God.
 She had seven years to teach him his true identity
 And faith in the living God.
 She did a masterful Job

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. Hebrews 11:23-24

We cannot explain Moses' actions or understand the contributions of his life
 apart from the story of his mother,
 All because Jochebed did not give up, but rather
 she kept her faith and used her creative imagination,

You know for many of us here today as well,
 We can't explain our lives apart from our mothers.
 We love you moms,
 We know that you have a tough Job,
 But God is not thru with you yet.

Pat Williams, in his book A Lifetime of Success,

Tells of attending a very special Atlanta Braves' baseball game on April 8, 1974.
 It was a night game against the Dodgers and it was a complete sellout.

Up at the plate: the immortal Hank Aaron.
 On the line: Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs.
 Aaron had tied the record and tonight he was aiming to break it.

40 years ago racial tensions were at their peak.
 And many people were not happy that an African American player
 was about to topple the great Babe Ruth's record.
 He got more 930,000 letters that year and most were fan letters—
 but about 100,000 of them were hate letters, some containing death threats.

When Al Downing the Dodgers pitcher hurled the ball toward the plate.
 Aaron swung and connected.
 The crack of his bat echoed through the stands.
 The ball was gone. Home run.
 Babe Ruth's record was shattered. The ballpark went nuts.
 "As Aaron rounded second base," "a couple of teenagers--both white--jumped over the retaining
 wall and ran onto the field, chasing Aaron.
 For a moment, no one knew what they had in mind,
 but then it became clear: they were celebrating and cheering Aaron on.
 As Aaron crossed the plate, the dugout emptied as the Braves
 streamed onto the field cheering and whooping it up.
 But amid all those ballplayers around Aaron was a short, sixty-eight-year-old black woman.
 She latched onto Aaron and wouldn't let go of him.
 "Henry Aaron turned and said to her, 'Mom! What are you doing here?'"

She said: “‘Baby,if they’re gonna get you,’ (thinking of the death threats Aaron had received) ‘they’ve gotta get me first!’”

That is love only a mother could have for her child.

“If they’re gonna get you, they’ve gotta get me first!”

Pat Williams, *A Lifetime of Success*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 2000), pp. 109-110, adapted by King Duncan

I trust that you were fortunate enough
to have God give you a mother like that.
Happy Mothers Day.
We love you, Moms.