

## CELEBRATING MOTHERS "IN PURSUIT"

Mothers, while in pursuit of the best for your children, do not forget to point them to God's divine love.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ The word "pursuit" means the act or an instance of chasing or pursuing; the act of striving to gain or accomplish something; an activity, such as a vocation or hobby, engaged in regularly; a diversion that occupies one's time and thoughts (usually pleasantly).
- ❖ We have all at some point in our lives been in pursuit of something. Mothers, for example, desire great things for their children. It is that inner drive—that motherly instinct—that a mother possesses that pushes her to pursue more for her child and less for herself.
- ❖ In Matthew 15:21-28 we read of the Canaanite woman whose daughter needed healing.
- ❖ The Bible does not give us the name of the child, the age of the child or how long she was sick. What we do know is that this mother had a need and when she heard that Jesus was in the region of her city, she pursued Him for her child's sake.
- ❖ The Bible said she cried unto Him: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David!" (v. 22).
- ❖ This Gentile mother gave Jesus the Messianic title, illustrating the readiness of this Gentile to confess the messiah-ship the Jews denied.
- ❖ No doubt she must have mustered up all the courage she had to go to Jesus, formulating in her head what words she ought to say to get His attention. And then, when she finally spoke...
- ❖ He ignored her. And when He eventually spoke, His response was, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel" and "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs" (vv. 24, 26).
- ❖ Jesus was not saying anything new to this Gentile woman that she had not heard before. She may have been called a dog ever since she was a child. She may have heard even her *parents* being called that. It was a common Jewish term toward Gentiles in those days.
- ❖ This mother did not miss a beat. He could call her a bulldog, a mongrel—any type kind of dog—but she was not leaving until Jesus helped her child. "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table" (v 27).
- ❖ After that response, Jesus sent healing to this mother's daughter wherever she was. That is a mother in pursuit.
- ❖ Mothers go through heartaches, tears, pains, disappointments as they live out their roles as mothers:
  - ◆ Eve knew the heartache of losing a child after her son Cain killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4).
  - ◆ When Pharaoh ordered all the male Israelite babies to be killed, Moses' mother Jochebed did everything in her power to keep him alive (Exodus 2:3).

### KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28

- ◆ Death was not acceptable for the Shunammite woman whose son suddenly died after experiencing a headache (2 Kings 4:24). For her, desperate times called for desperate pursuits...
- ❖ What pressure and pain Mary, the mother of Jesus, must have undergone when she watched the son she bore being tortured then crucified. She may have understood His purpose, but even as a mother, the pain and agony of losing a child in such a manner was severe.
- ❖ The love of a mother is PRICELESS!!!
- ❖ Many women may not feel that they can ever measure up to the virtuous woman/mother showcased in Proverbs 31.
- ❖ What Lemuel wrote was based on his wisdom and understanding of that time. However, when we look into these verses, we will find present many of the virtuous qualities that mothers of this day and age possess.
- ❖ Verses 11 onwards resonates inside each mother, stepmother, aunt, grandmother and grandmother.
- ❖ Each of you has an awesome responsibility to take the gift that God has given you (i.e. your sons, daughters, god-sons, god-daughters, nieces, nephews, step-sons and step-daughters) and do the best you can to nurture them in the fear of the Lord.
- ❖ God created motherly love to serve as a sign that points us toward His divine love. While pursuing the best for your child, don't forget that your heavenly Father wants the best for you also.
- ❖ When you bring your children before the Lord, bring yourself as well so that He can perfect His work. Allow God to mold you into the mother He wants you to be.
- ❖ He knows the plans He has for each of you and for your children; plans to prosper you, to give you a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Examples are given of mothers who go through heartaches and pain in their role of motherhood. Are there mother figures in your life who you know who have also sacrificed to fulfill their roles as mothers? If possible, share their story and how their sacrifice blessed the life of others (and their own).

### Prayer Time

Lord, thank You for my mother and for the women in my life who served as an excellent example. Not only in being a strong mother, but also in being a strong woman of faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↺ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE  
WORD

Start-up: Name something that you passionately pursued. What lengths did you go in order to obtain it and were you successful?