

A LABOUR OF LOVE

Let us continually thank God and our mothers for their labours of love.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ There is a song you may remember singing in Sunday School: "Count your blessings, name them one by one..." Don't you love that line?
- ❖ The truth is that many of our blessings have names. One of these blessings may be here with us today, or passed on. She may be present or estranged—it may be complicated—but we are all here because of a mother/mother figure.
- ❖ In its essence Motherhood is simply a Labour of Love. A labour of love is a labour voluntarily undertaken or performed without consideration of any benefit or reward. It is something done for the sheer purpose found in doing it. It's less about *what* it is, and all about *who* it is for.
- ❖ Our theme and focus for the year 2021 is "Live it!" And motherhood is perhaps the purest earthly expression of what Paul outlines in 1 Corinthians 13, for a mother's love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things (v.7).
- ❖ Mothers are the embodiment of our theme this year. They simply live it. They live love—everyday.
- ❖ Not only do mothers put the needs of their children above their own, the Bible gives us examples of mothers who facilitate their child's purpose above their own.
- ❖ We wouldn't have the first five books of the Bible written by Moses if it weren't for his mother Jochebed.
- ❖ We wouldn't have Samuel without Hannah being willing to return the very gift she yearned for back into the service of God.
- ❖ We would not have the 12 tribes of Israel if not for Sarah nurturing a promise that seemed far past its expiration date.
- ❖ We would not have David the Psalmist, or the King, had it not been for mother-in-law Naomi sharing her faith with Ruth who begat Obed, who begat Jesse, who begat David.
- ❖ Then there's Mary, Jesus' mother. She had an incredible challenge: she was chosen to be the Mother of The Messiah. While that is a great honour, it comes with immense pressure to get it right.
- ❖ **Mary trusted God.** When the angel, Gabriel, appears to Mary to tell her that she, a virgin, will give birth to the Messiah, she responds by saying, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).
- ❖ Trust God to make a way where there seems to be no way. This doesn't mean you won't have questions, doubts or fears, but choose to believe, in spite of the circumstances.
- ❖ **Mary praised God.** As we continue through Luke 1, we see the young virgin trying to work through

KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:7-13

- everything she has just heard from the angel. She responds with the song of praise that is recorded in verses 46-55.
- ❖ You may be a mother who sees a great future for your children but are intimidated by the scale of their calling. Praise is the vaccine against Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt. When trouble's in your life, sing praises!
 - ❖ **Mary hid treasures in her heart.** On two occasions in Luke 2, the Bible says "Mary treasured these things [pertaining to Jesus] in her heart" (verses 19 and 51b).
 - ❖ No matter how old we get, mothers treasure us in their hearts. They see the best in us. They hope the best for us.
 - ❖ **Mary was present.** She was with Jesus at the birth of his public ministry and throughout it (John 2:1-11). And she was at the foot of the cross at His crucifixion (John 19:25).
 - ❖ Mothers are there for us, good times and bad.
 - ❖ **Mary intercedes.** Mary could have been at home mourning the departure of her Son. Instead, she believed He was going to do incredible things in the lives of the believers, so she prayed and sought God with the rest of Jesus' followers (Acts 1:14).
 - ❖ In a season of uncertainty, mothers—like Mary—please continue to pray and seek God for His presence, His will, and His hand on your family and our church.
 - ❖ **Mary was imperfect.** She and her husband travelled for three days before noticing that Jesus, their son, was missing (Luke 2: 41-49).
 - ❖ Mothers, you do not have to be perfect or society's version of a perfect mother. So, please, give grace to yourself!
 - ❖ For us who are blessed to have a mother or mother figure who is alive today, let's find a way to thank them for their lifelong labour of love. As they intercede for us, let us intercede for them.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Were there instances in your life where your mother/mother figure, like Mary, trusted God, praised God, hid "treasures in her heart," etc.? Give an example. How did that particular action shape your life?
2. Whether your mother is here today or has passed on, thank her, and thank God for her.

PRAYER TIME







Lord, I am grateful for the mother/mother figure You placed in my life. Thank You for the many times she has said, "No charge."

Start-up: Is there an item your mother/mother figure received from you that she kept/treasured for a long time? Was it ugly/cute/useful, etc.?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

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)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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

PRAYER FOCUS: Foreign missionaries: anointing to preach the gospel, anointing to lead and empower national workers, family unity, personal protection



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

NO CHARGE [A MOTHER'S SON]

For the nine months I carried you
Holding you inside me no charge
For the nights I sat up with doctored you
And prayed for you no charge
For the time and tears
And the costs through the years
There is no charge
When you add it all up
The full cost of my love is no charge
For the nights filled with grey
And the worries ahead
No charge
For the advice and the knowledge
And the costs of your college
No charge
For the toys, school, and clothes
And for wiping your nose
There's no charge
When you add it all the real cost of my love is no charge

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 9, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Love suffers long and is kind;
love does not envy; love does
not parade itself, is not puffed
up.... Bears all things,
believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things."
1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 NKJV*

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