

**MOTHER'S DAY
SERMON: RISKY BUSINESS
5-14-23**

OPENER:

To all of us, Motherhood hasn't looked exactly the way we imagined it would. There are feeding challenges, no sleep, exhaustion, hospital stays, unexpected diagnoses, the never ending question of "Am I doing the right thing?"

We have to admit that it's hard being a mom.

- > Our hearts tighten with joy at the sound of our baby's first giggles and then drop in weariness during toddler tantrums and teenage rebellion.
- > Or, we are filled with happiness as we plan pregnancy with our spouse, only to be filled with grief when we realize through unforeseen circumstances we have to raise that child alone.
- > If our kids walk away from the Lord, we feel it.
- > If our kids are diagnosed or distraught or excluded or hurt, we feel it.

**THE PAIN OUR CHILDREN EXPERIENCE RARELY STOPS WITH THEM - IT OFTEN
SCARS OUR OWN HEARTS TOO.
AND AS MOMS WE SHARE IN THE SUFFERING.**

**BEING A MOM IS RISKY BUSINESS.
THE CHILD THAT YOU CARRIED IN YOUR WOMB YOU WILL FOREVER CARRY IN
YOUR HEART - EVEN WHEN
THEY ARE GROWN.**

**THE GREATEST JOYS AND THE GREATEST SORROWS WE EXPERIENCE ARE
WITH OUR CHILDREN.
BECAUSE GOD HAS PLACED HIS HEART IN US AS MOTHERS.**

Jesus said this expressing his heart for his people.....

Matthew 23:37 (NLT) O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.

**AS MOTHERS OUR HEARTS ARE FOREVER TIED TO OUR CHILDREN. IT IS JUST
HOW GOD MADE US.**

ILLUSTRATION:

I remember bringing Jared home for the first time. And being completely overwhelmed with the knowledge that his existence was totally dependent on me. His life totally depended on what I did or didn't do. I remember sitting the

bassinet beside my bed and waking up in a panic throughout those first nights and laying my hand on his back to make sure he was breathing.

**WE MOMS CAN BE HYPER-AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES
OUR CHILDREN FACE.**

**AS WE WATCH OVER THEIR HEARTS, WE NEED GOD'S COMFORT IIN THE
TENDER SPACES OF OUR HEARTS TOO.**

Some trials are weightier than others. Some are temporary, and others won't go away until heaven. Some are the consequences, direct or indirect, of our own sin; some are the consequences of others' sins against us; and some have causes we may never fully know. Nevertheless, every kind of suffering you or I experience is related to sin in our fallen world.

- > Your sadness as you walk the halls with empty arms.
- > Your concern as you toss in bed waiting for your teenage son to come home.
- > The wheelchairs, allergy appointments, inhalers, and eyeglasses.
- > The phone call from the police that there's been an accident.
- > Your daughter's IEP (Individualized Education Program).
- > The broken wrist in a ballgame.
- > Your child's fear of bullying at school.
- > Your fears for your adult son who is facing a divorce.
- > Your postpartum depression.
- > Your toddler fighting the flu.
- > Your rebellious child.
- > And the list goes on.

We're all going to experience hard days and weary seasons, and we're going to long for rest and help. But we won't find lasting comfort in the right parenting book, an online blog, the right doctor, the right diagnoses, or the right plan. We also can't place our hope in changed circumstances.

**GOD HAS PLACED THE STRENGTH
THAT WE NEED INSIDE OF US.**

**THE POWERFUL, COMFORTING HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US.
HE HAS THE ANSWERS THAT WE SEEK.**

1. THERE IS A TREASURE INSIDE YOU

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NLT) For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

**THE BEAUTY THAT WE SEEK IS NOT IN GETTING OUR PRE-PREGNANCY
FIGURE BACK, BUT THE BEAUTY OF GOD’S GLORY IN OUR HEARTS.**

**THE WISDOM THAT WE SEARCH FOR IS NOT FOUND
OUTSIDE OF US, BUT IN THE PRESENCE OF
GOD’S GUIDANCE WITHIN US.**

**THE PEACE THAT WE SEEK IS FOUND IN THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD IN
OUR HEARTS.**

**WE ARE MADE OF SINEWS AND FLESH AND BLOOD AND BONES, AND
ESTROGEN.
BUT GOD DESIGNED US AS VESSELS OF HIS GLORY.**

LLUSTRATION:

Mom canning as I grew up. A family doesn’t get excited about the jars but about what’s inside them. We weren’t designed to draw attention to ourselves—or place our significance on how we look, or what we have attained, or our popularity. but to the treasure of Christ living in us.

John 14:16-17 (NIV) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate(helper, comforter, guide, intercessor) to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you..... Vs. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**THE WEALTH OF WISDOM AND STRENGTH THAT WE LOOK FOR IS NOT
OUTSIDE OF US, BUT WITHIN US.
IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**HE IS OUR COMFORT OUR GUIDE OUR TEACHER,
OUR HELPER.
HE HAS ALL THE ANSWERS THAT WE SEEK.**

**HE KNOWS THE PATH THAT OUR CHILDREN NEED TO TAKE AND HE HAS THE
STRENGTH AND COMFORT THAT WE
NEED IN RAISING THEM.**

2. THE “I AM” IS WITH YOU

In Exodus 3...God states His own name for the first time....

Exodus 3:1-6 (NLT) One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to

Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

⁴ When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

⁵ "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶ I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.....

Vs. 9 - 10 (NLT) Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

Vs. 13-14 (NLT) ¹³ But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" ¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you

WHEN GOD SAID, "I AM WHO I AM", REPEATING "I AM" TWICE. HE WAS IN EFFECT SAYING "HE IS" PERIOD!

- > What is it that you need God to be right now?
- > Do you need him to be your strength? HE IS
- > Do you need him to be your joy? HE IS
- > Do you need him to be your wisdom? HE IS
- > Do you need him to be your redeemer and correct your mistakes? HE IS
- > Do you need him to be more than you could ever be? HE IS

The most powerful and supreme statements of "I am" in the Bible outside of Exodus 3 are made by Jesus Christ:

> ***FIRST: John 18*** In this passage, Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. Judas and a detachment of Roman troops and officers, the chief priests and Pharisees barged into the Garden with "lanterns, torches, and weapons..... *John 18: 4-6 (NLT) Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. "Who are you looking for?" he asked. ⁵ "Jesus the Nazarene," they replied. "I Am he," Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) ⁶ As Jesus said "I Am he," they all drew back and fell to the ground!*

NOTE:

The "He" in this verse is added to our English translations, therefore, the full implication of "I AM" is implied and recognition of Who He is. The force of the expression of God's name was like God telling Moses he was standing on holy ground.

NO MATTER HOW DARK, HOW HARD, HOW UGLY, HOW CHAOTIC THE CIRCUMSTANCE, TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES YOU ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.

BECAUSE THE LORD WHO NEVER LEAVES YOU OR FORSAKES YOU IS THERE.

> *SECOND: John 6:20, That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. ¹⁷ But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. ¹⁸ Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. ¹⁹ They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, ²⁰ but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!*

Note:

"here" is not a part of the original Greek Translation. Jesus said to the disciples, "Don't be afraid. I am."

MOMS, WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM. HE SAYS, "DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM."

WHEN THE THOUGHTS OF "I CAN'T DO THIS!" OR "I'M NOT A GOOD MOTHER!" WHIRL AROUND LIKE A STORM IN YOUR MIND KNOW THAT "I AM" IN YOU IS MORE THAN ABLE.

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE FAILING AS A MOTHER, REMEMBER "I AM" CANNOT FAIL.

NO MATTER HOW HARD THE TRIAL OR HOW WEARY THE SEASON KNOW THAT "I AM" HAS OVERCOME!

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING AND PRAYING FOR GOD'S DELIVERENCE AND INTERVENTION "I AM" HEARS YOUR PRAYERS.

When love for our children brings suffering, The only unshakeable, everlasting, always true hope we have is in *who God is.*