

Faith Part 9 – Faith to Love (5-12-2019)

This Week: “Faith to Love” (Or Faith like a Mother)

Opening: “Happy Mother’s Day” – A glimpse of Our Father’s heart through a mother’s love

Sermon Introduction: God made us in his image, male & female he made us (short explanation)

Honoring Mary (honoring our mother’s) and reflecting on the heart of God – I’m vastly unqualified!

Protestants have swung too far, we should honor her (not deify her). See Mary’s own words: Luke 1:48-49

Luke 1:48-49 (ESV)

(48) for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; (49) for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

1) Moms Believe in, Celebrate, and Treasure us

- a. Mary **treasured** (2), **pondered** (1), **marveled** (1) - 4 times in the few accounts of Jesus childhood
 - i. **Amy** – 1st look at each new baby, same as the 1st sight of Micah too!
- b. **Believed** in Him: Wedding at Cana, she knew what no one else knew about him yet! (John 2)
- c. **Celebrated:** Mary’s song of celebration & praise! Here are the opening lines . . .

Luke 1:46-47 (ESV)

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

God loves us like this too! If we would consider how a mother’s love reflects God’s heart toward us, it would do us well. Observe . . .

Psalms 139:13-18 (ESV)

(13) For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. (14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (15) My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (16) Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (17) How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! (18) If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

2) Moms say and do the things only a mom can say and do!

Moms - challenge, correct, embolden us, and stand by us

a. **Jesus stays at the temple** (12 years old)

Luke 2:46-48 (ESV)

(46) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (48) And when his parents saw him, they were **astonished**. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

Notes: Jesus parents were "astonished" - To strike out, force out by a blow, but found only in the sense of knocking one out of his senses or self-possession, to strike with astonishment, terror, admiration.

Only a parent can relate to being in **terror** and then **admiration** in the same moment!

Luke 2:49-51 (ESV)

(49) And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (50) And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. (51) And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Notes: They correct him. Now, they didn't understand what was happening, and Jesus came submissively

b. **Wedding at Cana** (He can do it, and ignores him, insisting he help)

John 2:3-5 (ESV)

(3) When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (4) And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." (5) His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Notes: Jesus first (recorded) miracle was a direct result of him obeying his mom – she ordered it, he did it!

c. **Stood by him at the cross . . .** This Leads to the hardest job of a mother . . .

In our moments of greatest **pain**, **weakness**, even **failure** (remember Jesus is standing in our place for our sin)

Moms stay right by our side – they never leave us, and they never forsake us! (Who does that sound like)

God stands by us, & also addresses hard things to help us grow. (For reflection: Luke 15 & Hebrews 12:5-13)

3) Moms experience the pain of letting go, so that we can grow into who we were meant to be!

a. **At Birth** - Simeon's Warning (Luke 2:34-35)

Luke 2:34-35 (ESV)

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Notes: From birth itself, life as a mom is a release or letting go! It's both a special bond and a unique wound

b. **As Children Age** - Jesus ignores his mother as he is doing ministry (Matt 12)

Matthew 12:46-49 (ESV)

(46) While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. (48) But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" (49) And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"

Notes: As children grow, mom falls into the background

c. **At Death** - Jesus on the cross as his mother watches (John 19)

Michelangelo's Pieta (On display in Rome)

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Pietà by Michelangelo in Saint Peter%27s Basilica - Vatican City.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Pietà_by_Michelangelo_in_Saint_Peter%27s_Basilica_-_Vatican_City.jpg)

The Pieta

Michelangelo carved a number of works in Florence, but in the 1490s he left Florence and ended up in Rome, where he lived from 1496-1501. In 1497, a cardinal named Jean de Billheres commissioned Michelangelo to create a work of sculpture to go into a side chapel at Old St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The resulting work – the *Pieta* – would be so successful that it helped launch Michelangelo's career unlike any previous work he had done. Michelangelo claimed that the block of Carrara marble he used to work on this was the most "perfect" block he ever used, and he would go on to polish and refine this work more than any other statue he created.

It represents, not Mary holding Jesus at his death, but holding him as a baby and seeing into the future>

To give birth is almost the ultimate act of love, sacrifice, and faith. Because, I'm birthing a life into this world of death, believing that God will redeem that life so that in death, there may be life – eternally!

Hebrews 11:35 (ESV) – "Women received back their dead by resurrection."

Conclusion: That is the Love of God & the Faith of a Mother – May we all have faith to love like that!