

Don't you love the Lord today?

I appreciated Perry sharing some from 1 Corinthians chapter 13. And, you know, to me mothers are the embodiment of love. That's just who they are. That's just the way God makes mom. That's just who they are. Now, I know we're living in challenging times and sometimes things don't always go as we would like or appreciate. I know some of you lost your mommas at an early age.

I don't know what that's like to grow up without one. Some of you grew up without a daddy. Some of you grew up without either.

So somehow or another the world is not fair. I'd like to tell you that everything's fair but it's not. But you know what? I can tell you somebody that loved you. His name is Jesus. I can tell you that.

Well with God's help. I want to share some things with you today. A little bit different approach maybe to a Mother's Day message than what I've done in the past. But anyway, I need to move on with my that and I hope you're going to have the grace to hang in there with us this morning til about a quarter after twelve because if you expect to leave at twelve o'clock, I can't get done what I need to say. So, I'm going to ask you to hang around a little bit longer.

But it is Mother's Day. That's what today's about and by the way, we do have a special gift to all the mothers who are here today. As well don't let me forget. And also the prayer requests and prayer blankets. We will do that after service, at the end of our service today. And so we will do that as well.

So, what is a mother? I guess, is a question that I would have, and you know, we we've all, at least most of us, would define a mother by our own mother if we were blessed to have one we grew up with or whatever. And we heard good testimonies today about mothers and mothers are very, very special. That's for sure.

So here's what I've done. I've decided to look at the letters of the word for mother and we're just gonna look at some words that came to my mind. When I say came to my mind, I had some prayer and spent some time. I just didn't. But anyway, we got some words here. I'll spend more time talking about some of them more than others. I'll work in a scripture or two along the way. But here's what I want you to think about it. For those of you who still have mothers, those of you who had a mother they've gone on. Maybe you had a grandmother that raised you, maybe some of your were raised as you were adopted. But whoever that was, that person was your mother. That was in your life and they did whatever way you want to look at it. And so anyway let's just think of that

today and I want you to, as I go through some of these words, they're going to strike an accord with some of you somewhere. Now I know that none of us are perfect. The only perfect one, He gave His life for you and I. We all understand that.

But for some of us, our mamas are just almost. They're just one notch away from being perfect. That's how we feel about it. And that's ok. That's good that we do.

So, let's begin and of course you know that the first letter for mother is M. I have three words here and we'll begin with the first one which is Merciful. You know if I wanted mercy, I didn't go to my dad, I went to my mom. That's the way it was. You know dads kinda say, suck it up, you know, son, be big about this thing. But you go to Mom and you know it seems somehow or other you felt, you felt you could cry around her. You know, you could let her know how you felt about something and she had a compassion for you that seemed to go beyond measure. You know, Jesus said, blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. So, I pray for mercy on all the mamas today that have been merciful to those that God has entrusted in your care.

The second word I have today is Merry. Merry. Meaning happy. You know, we have a, guys have a word that we use, sometimes we say happy, wife is a happy ____ (life). That's exactly right. If you don't believe that, wait til you have a wife. And then you , but you know... I was telling my wife, I said you know I grew up, I've known two mothers. Who can guess what two mothers I've known in my lifetime? (Your real mother and your mother-in-law.) Well that's true. (Your wife.) My wife. That's the one I spent most the time with, as a mother. So I know, I know about a mother from being a son, also from being a husband to a mother. And I know about that. But I know when mamas are happy everything goes a lot better. Bible tells in Proverbs 15:13, a merry heart makes a cheerful countenance. Proverbs 17:22 says a merry heart does good like a (medicine) medicine. You know mamas are awful good medicine. Good medicine for the soul. Good medicine for what's going on. If you were blessed to have one that you could talk with.

Merry. The third thing, and Bryce I was thinking of this when you said that. The third thing is, mamas are Miracle Workers. I don't know how they do it all. You almost said that. Didn't know how your mother did everything she did. I don't know how my mom did what she did. You look around, there's two of us here today. I was hoping there would be three. Three sons. But you'd look at us three and you'd think, wow my mom really had a task on her hands, didn't she? You know, Miracle Workers. Somehow or other mothers are able to do the impossible. all I'm honest with you, I don't know how they do it. I really don't.

Well let's move on. The next letter is "O" you know. I know how to spell I guess. And the first word I have for that is "Occupied". You know, some of you know we still have some here

today that were homemakers. They made their choice to be a homemaker. But have you ever noticed that today, you know, that when people say "What's your occupation?", they'll ask a woman what her occupation is and well she's been a homemaker, "Oh, okay, that's all you've done?". Have you ever felt that way you homemakers? But you know what, you, you've been Miracle Workers. The thing of it is, let me tell you a little bit. Like it relates to my mother. You know, I was 18 years

old, and a senior in high school when my youngest brother, Mark, was born. Warren was fourteen going on fifteen. He's not here today. We'll be praying for him later. He was a freshman in high school. Ben, I don't remember what grade you were in but you were 9 going on 10. And Steve wasn't even in school yet. He was 5 and a half years old. I was a senior in high school. We had a new brother. There's 5 of us. Now, I commend any mother that has a number of children. Whatever age you have them. I commend any of you that have 1 child. Alright, so that's a number. But the thing of it is, is that, you know, when I think of that, I think, wow! What a miracle worker that she give attention to an 18 year old senior.

A teenager who is fourteen going on fifteen.

Another young child that's looking forward to becoming a teenager someday and getting his driver's license. That'd be Ben. And then of course Steve, who's just old enough to know that he's gonna be going to school, and Mark who doesn't know anything yet. Just was born. And have to deal with all these boys. Know what to do.

Next word. "O", Observer. Mothers are so observant. Aren't they? (Yep). They pay attention. You know, moms have x-ray vision. They really do. I heard a certain young mother yesterday say "You know I'm sure learning a lot about it's like to be a mama but I don't have eyes in the back of my head yet, and there's a couple other mothers pulled in and said, "But you will." You will have eyes in the back of your head. They're observers.

But the third thing I think of is that moms are Overcomers. You know somehow or other it doesn't matter what comes their way, they find a way to rise above it. They're Miracle Workers! That goes along with being a Miracle Worker. But wow! You know, lots of obstacles come in the way. Odetta shared an obstacle that they just went through and, but the money magically, I'll say not magically, but the money showed up to meet that need. You know, where there's a will, there's a way. Mamas have that attitude about it. Talking about the garden, my wife was talking about the garden and of course we had a garden at our home. When my mother worked in the garden, how'd she do all that? I don't know! Cooked, I mean we always had something good to eat on to eat on the table, but I confess that, as a child, I was thinking about, there's got to be something better than this somewhere. But I got older and realized there wasn't. Some of the best food there was was there on our table. And we got to enjoy that.

Alright, let's move on to the next letter "T". You know mamas are Teachers and Trainers. You know what, they can't check out of that. They

cannot check out at the end of the day. It's a 24/7 job. Yeah, if anybody ever potty train a child? Yeah, I believe it or not, I was potty trained. I don't remember it. But I guess I was. I learned it somewhere. So anyway, but you know, there is the something. Of course teachers and trainers both set examples and practice that. You're probably thinking about the verse I'm thinking about. Psalm... sorry, Proverbs 22 verse 6.

"Train up a child in the way that he should go? And when he is old,... (he will not part from it), yeah he'll not depart from it. You know what and some of you mamas are still praying that that took hold in your children. Cause you haven't seen it fully implemented yet. So we keep praying and believe that. You know one time on Mother's Day many years ago, my dad and mom came out and I remember my dad says "I've got something to say".

Well, this is back when we were in the old Coen building, the old schoolhouse and he walked up to the front to

speak. First time I'd ever heard my dad share in a way like that. He caught me off guard. He said I want

to let you know, he called her mom too. So, my mom was mom when he said Mom and he wasn't talking about his mother, who lives down the road, he called her mom too. But when he was talking to us kids, mom meant our mother. But he stood in front of that church and said, "I want to tell you, Mom raised my boys." That's what she said. He said. "Mom raised them, I didn't raise them." So, if you look at Ben and I you can blame my mother for who we turned out to be. (Laughter) Now we know better than that because when we got older, we saw something in our dad that as young whippersnappers, we didn't see. And realized what an asset, what a treasure he was. What an example he was.

But true, mama was the go to one. Mom was, we called her mom, okay? But anyway, that's who she was.

The second thing I have is thoughtful. Considerate of others. I saw something yesterday that made me feel very good about a mother that's here today. There was a certain situation that arose with her son.

Young lad growing up and trying to figure out what's going on in life and I observed how she handled that. And I want to tell that mother today what I saw demonstrated grace, integrity, and dignity with how you handle that and you know who I'm talking about. I want to commend you for how you handled that yesterday. Considerate of others. Last but not least in the "T" area is Thankful. Sister Mary, I don't know of a mother that's more thankful than you. I'm glad you're here today. But the rest of you know what I'm talking about, when she stands up, I mean the words, she's so thankful. She talked about being blessed. Not that others don't. But I think it's very whenever, and she just demonstrated that again today. You know, so their thankful. You know, the Bible tells us about giving thanks and how important that is. In fact in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, we can read there that all situations we need to be thankful. Maybe not necessarily for the situation itself, but be ready to give thanks in whatever way. And you know, if you're blessed with a mother that knows how to be thankful in tough times, and with

all the issues that have gone on. That matters so much. Also, we're told that when we come together and gather that it's to worship. Let there be giving of thanks. Let there be an attitude of thanksgiving. And so when I think about mothers, mothers are Thankful. They find ways to be thankful when some of the rest of us cannot.

Next letter we have is "H", "H". Well, mamas are Helpers. I mean my mom helped me when I, when you're the first child, you get to experience certain things. You can't help it, I didn't choose the fact that I was the first one born. That's just, that was, that's, that's. But I came along. But I mean she, you know, she helped me, helped me with my school work. Mom was a good speller. But, you know, mothers are always willing to help their kids when they can. "Can I help you?" They want to help. That's who mamas are. And, uh, that's just how they feel about it. And, they're not quitters. They don't quit. They keep supporting and helping the child.

The next thing I have is Healer. Moms are some of the best healers I know of. I mean, a child can fall, scrape elbows or knees and... (whining). You've never done that, have you? Well come here, honey. Let me kiss it. Kiss on it and love on it and boy it won't be 2 seconds and they're out playing again, forgot all about it. Instant healing. Mamas are some of the best healers. Yeah. I oughta know. You know, I can remember my mother putting up with somebody that had earaches, leg aches. I'd cry during the night. My legs hurt so bad. I don't know how she you put up with me. You don't either, do you? She was something special. I remember one time, I was very, very sick, out of my head. You say, Pastor was that the only time you've been out of your head? Well, probably not but, but anyhow, this time I remember a little bit about it. I went outside the house and started wandering around the yard. You know, I was, I was running a fever and, and I don't know what all was going on with me. But, you know, back in those days, you just didn't run to the doctor every time something went wrong like they do today. Please understand me, I'm not criticizing people for going and getting help, okay? But that was the way it was back then. You tried to solve a problem herself until you couldn't. But anyway, you know one time, I had an earache. I'd ache with earaches all night long. You know, I'd have a light bulb. Put a light bulb, sactually put a sock over a light bulb to my ear. A low wattage light bulb ear. Putting heat on my ear so I can make it through the night with the pain. I mean, I had, I had a lot of things to deal with. I didn't know what she did, but she had heard that if you take the larvae of dirt dobbers, put that in your ear it would help. So she didn't tell me what she'd done. So she went out on the porch and found an old dirt dobbers nest, knocked them and took some of the larvae out, she put that in my ear and I had a good night. Later on, I found out what it was. I still had a good night.

You know, the third thing I think of when I think of mamas is the Heart. There's no greater more heart than a mother passes. I mean, I already talked about my mom. There's 5 boys, 5 sons. Marilyn's mother had eight girls, one of them died at the age of 2. But anyway, mothers have such a big heart. That they can, they've got a heart, big enough, but no matter how different their kids are, they can love them all. With their differences and all. I guess it must have something to do with the process of carrying the child and bringing the child to birth. That develops a connection between the mother and the... Just look at those 3 boys right... Do you feel connected, Amy, to those 3 sons of yours? (Amy- Yes, and they're all very different.) And they're all very different. Do you love any one more than the other? (Amy- No.) No, you don't. You don't want, love any one less than the other. You love them all equally. God has given you the capacity to love every one of those little guys differently. Differently at times because they need love differently. They need it... You know, somebody says, well I treat my all my kids the same. No you don't. You treat each one like they need to be treated because they're different and God gives you the capacity in your heart to render special treatment to meet that need. Would you agree, Amy? (Amy- I agree.) Thank you for agreeing with me, I appreciate that. I appreciate you 2 being here. A big heart. Mothers. Can't deny it. How many of you... Perry, I remember your mom. You confessed the other night over at Pleasant Ridge, what a scoundrel you were as a young man. I didn't know you then. But you know what? Your mama still loved you and I know she loved every one of you kids. She was one special woman. She was different. But she was a special woman. Those kids needed a mama like her. Because that's the kind of kids they were. And I'm not meaning that in a bad way. I'm just not saying that's just the way things are. God seems to do that. He builds that into the mothers.

Let's move on. We got a couple more letters to go, the letter "E". I've got a fancy word up here, Executive, that's just another fancy word for Miracle Worker. I mean they are. They orchestrate all kinds of things, you think, behind the scenes, work things out. We'd never know all about it but they're planning ahead of time, figuring things out, how we're gonna cover this. And I know a little bit about that. So, I live. I live with a mother. And we can just be driving down the road and she's calculating and figuring out how a certain need can be met with one of her own children or one of the grandchildren. Well, this is what we need to do. And most of the time I just listen. Because she's thinking about things that possibly can be done to solve a problem or situation. That's what mothers do.

Let's go on to the next word, Endures. You know, mothers, don't, they don't just sign up for getting the child raised. That's a big enough thing right there. They're still involved in their lives I mean mothers don't check out. Mothers don't check out. How many you moms have checked out with your kids? What I mean is, you already wrote them

off, don't want anything else to do with them even though they're grown up and out. Maybe even got grandchildren, great...? Have you written yours off, Pinky? Have you written your kids off, Leatha? No way, no how. And you've got another group you're helping with here too. They don't do it. They, they're in there for the long haul. They Endure to the end. That's what mothers do, for better or for worse. You know, when we get married, we say for better or worse, I believe it's for the better, but you know, sometimes worse comes along. But, you know, mothers stick in there. They still believe.

The third thing then is Encouragers. Nobody can encourage you and say, I believe in you, like a mother. I knew you could do it, son, knew you had it in you or daughter, whatever it might be. Encouragers. They believe in their kids, they really do. How many know that's true? That's right, they do. You know, and they literally, you know I, anyway, you know what I'm talkin about?

Let's move on the last letter "R". First word I've got here is Reproves. You know, as much as we love our kids, sometimes we love them enough to know was got a deal with reality. There needs to be some reproof, need to be some correction. Need to go back and rely on that teaching and training. And okay, I got to deal with this. Can't let this go by. Do you know why? Because they love you enough that they want you to grow up to be somebody that knows what's right and wrong and chooses to do right. You know, it doesn't always happen that way. But that's part of the process.

Second letter I or, second word I have is reliable. How many feel, now don't hold up your hands, but... I'm gonna ask, let's see, Boogie, is your mother reliable? Do you know what the word means? I'll give you another word. Can you trust your mom? Ah, you know what that means don't you? How about tomorrow can you trust her tomorrow? Think you can trust her tomorrow? If you went to your mom tomorrow to talk to her about something, do you think you can still trust her? (Yes) What about next week? Think you can still trust her next week? This is not a trick question, son. I'm really not trying to trick you. What I'm really... Yeah, in other words, you know your mom well enough, you know no matter whether it's next week or whenever, if you go to her, you know you can trust her, don't you? That's what I'm talkin about. That's the way mamas are. That matters, that's important to us, isn't it? Now, now you never do anything you're not supposed to, do you? (Leatha- Now that's a trick question!) That's the trick question. Well we all know that he does. He knows he does. But can you still trust your mom? Will she still love you? (Yes). Sure, she will. That's what reliable, mothers are reliable. We can count on them. That's a wonderful thing. They want to be counted on.

And last but not least, she Remembers. You know, Amy said every one of her children were just different as, well I added the words different as can be, you

said they're all different. They've got different likes and dislikes.

Is that correct? All right, you know what those are. She knows what they are.

How many do other mothers, know what your children like and dislike? You know that don't you? Now if we're going to have a, on the birthday for the particular child you are celebrating the birthday for, and you know, one of them likes a certain kind of cake. Are you going to make a cake to please the other one, or the one that's their birthday? You're going to do the one for the birthday, aren't you? That's what you're going to do. And you all know what I'm talkin about. Mothers remember. Sometimes, dad do and sometimes they don't. After all, what difference does it make? Eat it son, or starve. Suck it up, son. (Laughter) You've never heard one like this, did you? Well you know, it encourages us all to know that our mothers remember us and remember... You know the thing is, remember, they usually remember our differences and try to make sure they cater to that when it's appropriate. You know what that does to you and to me when our moms did that, or do that? Makes us feel like we

matter. Everybody wants to matter. I just heard my granddaughter say that for 20 years, she felt like she was disconnected from her family. I heard her share as well as you did that she's glad to be back where she feels she's got family and she can be connected. Family matters a whole bunch. And folks, every single one of you matter to me, but I've also got family as well. And I'm gonna confess that there's been times that I haven't done for my own family and did for others. I'm sorry Becky. But dad's doing some things today to make up for some things that he didn't do. So I guess in some ways, I'm kinda like my dad. Mom raised the kids. But anyway, but God's blessed me with knowing 2 mothers very well. My own mother, who gave me everything she had, and then some. And my wife, that for her husband, still does the things that... I'm not, probably don't deserve it, but she does anyway. And that's who she is. Ben's got a great wife and mother. I know a little bit about Cheryl. Ben knows her better than I do. But if anybody loves their kids, Ben, Cheryl loves her kids, don't she. Of course she also loves you and I know that.

Well

listen. I think I'm taking up my time. So today is all about mothers. And so we want to honor our mothers and so will go to the last slide. Mothers, you're just downright incredible. I don't know how you do it, but happy Mother's Day. We all love you and let's get our mothers a hand.

Now, I recognize that today, we have some maybe who haven't naturally born a child, but are here in here and literally serving in the role as a mother, I include you today. And so I want all the children to help me out. So I don't want any of the mother and I have to come up here and get their own. But now what these what we have for you today This is a \$10, Golden Corral gift card. Now, depending on when you go, you could almost eat for \$10 at Golden Corral all you want. (Go on the old people's day.) Yeah, especially on the old people's day, but some of these people aren't old people yet. But if you do go at the right time of the day, you can

still get a meal for close to ten bucks. So it will go a long way. It's an opportunity for the family to go together with mama and she gets her way paid. You'll have to figure your own way out, to go with her. But anyway, but we've got one and I want every mother, every grandmother to get one of these.

And if you find yourself today, being a one who doesn't have children yet but helps provide care for children and Bryce I'm talking about your companion over there.

She's welcome to one

also. All right, now all you, kids figure out who you going to get one for because there's Grand ma, great-grandma, grandma, mother, mother, and a want to be mother on the end. Helping take care of kids as well. So you can come up here and get one of these, and take it to them. Then back here on this row, I see a grandma. I see a mother I see another Grandma over there. and, I see a mother back here. I see I see a mother back here that's sitting with her husband, doesn't have her daughter with her today, so she's gonna need one of you young ones to take her one.

And so anyway, so start coming up here but, I don't, I want everybody to just get one to begin with, for certain one you're going to get for and then we'll have others that don't have any yet that you can help out, okay?

Passes out cards...

Praying over Prayer Blankets...

Singing...

Lord we pray a special blessing today on all the mamas, the grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Lord I know that being a mother never ends until the mama goes on to be with you. So be with these mothers today, Lord we treasure every one of them. There's children that depend and count upon them, no matter how young or old. That's just the way it is. Thank you for blessing us with mothers and Jesus you were even born of a mother so you had that experience also, you know. It was God's plan that it happened that way. So Lord we just present our mamas to you today. Bless them and keep them safe, protect them from the evils of the world and grant them, Lord, the joy of life that you came to give them. May you get all the glory and praise and all of God's children said... AMEN! Amen and God bless you all. Happy Mother's Day everybody!