

## **Title: The Faithful Influence of Mothers: Legacy of Sacrifice and Faith**

Sermon Summary: This Mother's Day sermon honors the profound influence of mothers and mother figures, drawing parallels between maternal sacrifice and Christ's love. The pastor reflects personally on his own mother's selfless service and challenges the congregation to recognize that faith is often transferred through generations before it's fully understood. Through the biblical examples of Mary, Martha, and Esther, the message emphasizes that God positions women purposefully to shape lives, build faith, and leave lasting legacies. The sermon calls believers to surrender their pride, ask for forgiveness promptly, and recognize that God's grace covers all imperfections. It concludes with a reminder that sacrificial love—whether from mothers or from Christ—always comes at a cost but is eternally worthwhile.

### **Key Points:**

- Faith is often transferred before it's understood, passed down through mothers and grandmothers
- Mothers' daily sacrifices and service are not invisible to God; they constitute a ministry
- We are all positioned by God on purpose, not by accident, to influence others for Christ
- Courage is obedience in spite of fear, requiring us to speak truth and stand firm when needed
- God does not require perfection but responds to surrender and repentance
- Pride keeps us from asking forgiveness promptly; we should confess immediately rather than letting sins accumulate
- Sacrificial love mirrors Christ's sacrifice on the cross
- Our focus should be upward on Christ rather than on worldly success or others' opinions
- When we feel weak, broken, or empty, God provides strength, restoration, and fulfillment

### **Scripture References:**

- 2 Timothy 1:5 (Faith passed from grandmother Lois and mother Eunice to Timothy)
- Luke 1:38 (Mary's surrender: "Behold, the Lord's bondservant")

- John 11:27 (Martha's confession of faith in Christ)
- Esther 4:14 (Mordecai's challenge: "for such a time as this")
- Esther 4:16 (Esther's courageous decision: "if I perish, I perish")
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (God's grace is sufficient; power perfected in weakness)
- Matthew 11:28 (Jesus' invitation to the weary and heavy laden)

### **Stories:**

- Personal testimony about the pastor's mother's daily sacrifices, rising at 4:15 AM, working tirelessly in gardening, sewing, canning, and caring for family with only one vacation in her lifetime
- The pastor's sons Aaron and Andrew spending Saturday mornings with their grandmother who made them biscuits and gravy from scratch
- Mary's encounter with the angel announcing she would bear the Son of God, her faith despite overwhelming circumstances
- Martha serving while her sister Mary anointed Jesus, yet making one of the strongest faith declarations when Lazarus died
- Esther's story as an orphan who became queen and risked her life to save the Jewish people from Haman's plot of destruction, approaching King Xerxes unlawfully and declaring "if I perish, I perish"
- Illustration of how former friends abandon those who turn to Christ, calling them "Jesus freaks," emphasizing the cost of discipleship