

Sermon: The Perfect Mother

Text: [Isaiah 66:13a ESV](#)

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May 8, 2022 - Mother's Day

Isaiah 66:13a ESV ^{13a} **As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; God is most often referred to as a Father, but there are times when He is compared to “The Perfect Mother.” God, of course, is Spirit and has no specific gender. The only time we see God as a person who has a gender is in His Son, Jesus.**

Introduction: A recent poll identified the 6 most famous sayings of mothers:

- 6. Someday your face will freeze like that.**
- 5. Patience is a virtue.**
- 4. If your friend jumped off a cliff, would you jump too?**
- 3. Don't make me come over there.**
- 2. I'll give you something to cry about.**
- 1. Because I said so!**

There are frustrations in being a mom.....

-Trying to dress an active little child is like trying to thread a sewing machine needle while it's running.

-Cleaning your house while kids are at home is like trying to shovel the driveway during a snow storm.

**-There are only two things a child will share willingly:
communicable diseases and their mother's age.**

-Kids do really brighten up a household; they never turn off any lights.

-Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Have you ever overheard: “boy, I'm sure glad we have our children raised and we don't have children growing up today.” What's being said there may not be entirely clear, but I think they are saying that parenting is a difficult job and getting tougher all the time.

Moms, I know it's tough and you don't always feel like doing what you know you should do, but the result is worth it. Eighteen (18) years old comes so fast, and then they are gone sometimes. Take every opportunity to influence your children to be godly and followers of Jesus while they will still listen to you.

When things do get difficult moms often fantasize about being someone different. One mother said, “I wish I were a bear. If you’re a bear, you get to hibernate, you do nothing but sleep for 6 months. I could get used to that, one mom said.

And another thing - before you hibernate, you’re suppose to eat yourself silly. That wouldn’t bother me either. If you’re a momma bear, everyone knows you mean business, and you will swat anyone who bothers you or your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat *them*, too. Your husband expects you to growl when you wake up. He *expects* you to have hairy legs and excess body fat. He likes it. I wish I were a bear.

I don’t know if you are a typical family, but if you are, the mother many times carries the majority of the parenting responsibilities. **MOTHERS, WE SALUTE YOU. We don’t know how you do it. We are just so glad you do.**

The Perfect Mother provides some basic necessities that money can’t buy.

I. We Need Someone Close Who Cares.

Everyone needs to be close to someone and be nurtured. Our mothers have consistently done that. There have been some attempts to complement the efforts of the home.

The educational system has become a secondary and in some cases a primary parent for many children – but that has not been an improvement. The educational system can not be a mother for us, nor should it be -- because we can not agree on the foundational faith for making any decision. Given a vacuum, something will try and fill it. Critical Race Theory and sexual and gender instruction is only the latest unholy information being passed off as caring.

The political machinery or social organizations can not provide nurture. They may be able to provide a warm blanket, but they should not be expected to give us warm feelings about ourselves. Tik-Tok and Snapchat will not cut it either! Social media dare not become our trusted babysitters. We need someone who has invested in us like no one else; we need our mother who knows us, and still loves us.

Some have had dysfunctional family experiences. Their lives have not had love, closeness, and caring demonstrated by their mothers. The Church can provide an additional family structure and in some cases the only nurturing body they may have. Listen to what Jesus says about real family in Matthew’s gospel.

Matthew 12:46-50 ESV

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

46 While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers[a] stood outside, asking to speak to him.[b] **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! **50** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Footnotes:

[a] Matthew 12:46 Or brothers and sisters; also verses 48, 49

[b] Matthew 12:46 **Some manuscripts insert verse 47**, like the NIV- Someone told him, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak to you”

The mother who God honors, and who shows her children who God is by personal example, cares more for her children than even herself.

A mother's love is a love that doesn't quit.

A mother took her six-year-old boy into a doctor's crowded waiting room. As they waited their turn, he began to ask her all kinds of questions. In half an hour he managed to cover almost every subject known to humanity. To the wonder of all the others sitting in the room, his mother answered each question carefully and patiently. Inevitably, he got around to God. As the other people listened to his relentless “how's” and “why's” it was plain to see by the expressions on their faces that they wondered: “How does she stand it?”

But when she answered her son's next question, she answered theirs too. “Why,” he asked, “doesn't God ever get tired and just stop?” “Because,” she replied after a moment's thought, “God is love; and love never gets tired.”

Witness the patient, tireless love of a mother, and you witness God's love. God's love never gets tired. God's love never quits.

Home should be a place where someone cares – where they have to take you in.

Mothers are supposed to care when no one else does. It's in their job description. There has to be a haven somewhere in this heartless world where it's O.K. to fail or not measure up and where beauty is indeed in the eye of the beholder. That's where we get the expression: a face only a mother could love. I'm sorry, but we have all seen some of these so-called beautiful babies. My brothers serve as good examples here!

A mother's love is an unconditional love.

The story is told of a sharecropper family who lived in the South shortly after the Civil War. Every year when the crops were harvested, the family's share was barely sufficient to provide food and clothes for the next year. There was never enough for any of the amenities or luxuries of life.

One year the fields yielded a bumper crop, and after all of the necessities were bought there was enough money left over to buy something special for the entire family. The only condition was that the purchase had to be approved by the entire family. So the mail-order catalog (you remember those) was opened and the pages turned slowly. The pages pictured wonderful attractions for various members of the family, but nothing suited the liking of every member of the family until they came to the page where mirrors were pictured. When they saw the mirrors the family decided unanimously that a mirror was something they could all use.

Well, the day came when the mirror arrived. The package was quickly opened and the father beheld his own image for the very first time. At first there was a look of puzzlement, then a smile, and then great laughter as his face displayed the sheer delight of seeing himself in the mirror. By now the rest of the family members were anxiously waiting their turn, and as the mirror passed from member to member the response was the same until it passed into the hands of the youngest member. In a moment the look of anticipatory joy vanished and was replaced by a look of grief and terror as he saw his reflection for the first time. The family's laughter ended abruptly as they all realized the little boy's pain. As a baby he had been burned in a fire and his face was badly disfigured.

Looking in the mirror, then back at his mother, then in the mirror and back to his mother, he said to her, "Did you know I looked like this?"

"Yes, son." Looking back in the mirror and back at his mother, a tear running down her cheek, he asked, "How could you love someone as ugly as me?"

Grasping the child and holding him close, she looked deep into his eyes and said, "I love you because you're mine."

A mother's love that looks beyond the disfiguring burn and says, "I love you because you are mine" reminds us of God's love that looks beyond our sins and weaknesses, that grasps us close to his breast with those same words, "I love you because you are mine."

Someone has to care. And when no one else will here on earth – mothers will. Mothers have to care when no one else will because it's in their contract. Abraham Lincoln said, "No man is poor who has a Godly mother."

II. We Need Someone to Provide Stability in an Unstable World.

There is a need for roots in a society that is mobile. When we ministered in Midland, Michigan we saw a tremendous turnover in our congregation over the years due to people moving out of state or to Belgium or South Africa or some such place. It is hard to get too close when you know people are going to move soon. Where the average time for a minister to stay in one location is generally under three years, it is hard to develop long-range goals with a feeling of security.

In the home we see more disintegration and lack of commitment to even marriage. It is common in our culture to live together, have children, then get married if it works that long.

The fallacy is: that kind of a trial period will insulate against divorce or future failure in the relationship, when in fact the opposite is true statistically.

More and more it seems it falls on the mother to provide a strong religious model for the children. Even though it is clear the father should help and even lead in this process, it many times, by default, comes to the mother to provide religious instruction and a Christian example for the children. We can argue all day about proper biblical models, but I thank God for those godly mothers who have kept the faith. I especially respect the single mom who is trying to do it all, and does it with God's help.

To a large extent, whether or not you have done a good job as a mother is soon found out when the children leave home (empty-nest syndrome) and go where no one knows them.

Illus. Plato tells the story of a young shepherd who found a ring that would make him invisible to his neighbors. This gave him the right to do as he pleased without being observed or detected. Prior to his having received this ring, he was a righteous, godly and virtuous man. After he was freed of the scrutinizing eyes and detecting influence of his neighbors, he became an unscrupulous, ungodly man.

The test of true religion and faith in God is not what you do among friends who may hold you accountable, but how you conduct yourself among strangers who don't care about you. The true gauge as to the effectiveness of your parenting is not how well behaved your children are in church, although that's important, but what happens when they become invisible on the campus of one of our universities or leave the state to pursue a career.

We are told in Scripture (Wisdom Literature): [Proverbs 22:6 ESV](#) 6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

If our mothers have trained us up right, they will have prepared us for the time when we as children are going to leave. Some almost deify home (OHIO), the old church, and the good old days. We assume there are no places like the old places, no ways to worship other than the way they worship “back home.” We react like Naaman did when the prophet Elisha healed him wanting to carry the very dirt where we encountered God with us wherever we go. In doing so we never test the new soil upon which we are standing, never assess the streams of water around us for their sustaining powers for spiritual growth. We may be so impressed with the Mississippi River that all others simply make us weep for home.

But part of creating your own family is leaving your old family. The very nature of marriage is to leave and cleave to another.

And while it is normal to have wonderful feelings for the past, we are living in the present. Nostalgia is great, but it can cripple those who pitch a tent there. It cuts you off from relating to an ever-changing world. The church is in danger of becoming an ANACHRONISM (out of step, out of touch) in its own time because of living in the past.

The perfect mother will be able to provide stability in the context of change.

Conclusion: We are told to honor our mothers. Do you want to honor your mother? Live your life for Jesus. You want to make your mother proud? Do what you know God wants even when you're invisible to everyone you know.

In the Bible, a mother is always available. There were many O.T. mothers who were important: Sarah, Rebekah, Ruth, Hannah, Bathsheba....Mary certainly, as the mother of Jesus, is a good model for us. We should not venerate her in an exaggerated way, but we do want to give her credit where it is due.

In spite of a difficult beginning in motherhood, Mary trusted God to provide a godly family for her.

In spite of misunderstanding Jesus' mission, she continued to watch over Jesus and parent him in a way that even Jesus submitted to.

In spite of not comprehending the importance of miracles performed at weddings, she did not discourage Jesus in his ministry like the rest of the family, nor think Jesus was mad.

And in spite of the fact that it was Peter who said: “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” (Mark 14:29), it was John and Mary who were at the cross trying to provide support without regard for their own well-being. But then that’s the way mothers are who love God.

Mary even was found at the meetings of the early Church, after the ascension of Jesus, still investing in the dream of her son so that the whole world might be saved.

The God to whom little boys and girls say their prayers has a face very like their mothers – James M. Barrie

**Maybe that’s what Isaiah meant about God when he said, [Isaiah 66:13a ESV](#)
13a As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;**

Illus. A woman who was dying of an incurable disease requested a minister visit her. Everything seemed hopeless to her.

**“I’m lost,” she said, “I’ve ruined my life and every life around me.
I’m headed for hell. There’s no hope for me.”**

The minister noticed a framed picture of a pretty girl on the dresser.

“Who is that?” he asked.

**The woman cracked a smile and said, “She’s my daughter,
the one good and beautiful thing in my life.”**

**“Would you help her if she was in trouble” asked the minister,
“no matter how many mistakes she’d made?”**

Would you forgive her if she asked you to?

Would you still love her no matter what?”

“Of course I would,” answered the dying mother, “why do you ask that?”

“Because, I want you to understand that God has your picture on his dresser.”

(Whirlwind Communications- HELP 4 SUNDAY)