

Mother's Love

Texts: Acts 10:4-48

1 John 5:1-6 (Series B. 6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day) Ps. 98

John 15:9-17

Prayer:

On the afternoon of March 2, 2005, our country Canada was shocked when a lone gun man by the name of James Roszko. James, armed bush and killed five RCMP in a small town called Mayerthorpe, Alberta.

It was a sad day for Canada, when CBC "*The Fifth Estate*" producer Linden MacIntyre interviewed his parents, listen to this the father described him as the devil, but when reporter turned to his mother, she referred to him as my son.

A mother's love is so unconditional and exceptional that it is in a category by itself. Some call it " Mother's love." It is a degree of love that is only fully expressed by the love of a mother. This is Mother's Love, the most powerful instinct in women.

It is the kind of love that persists no matter what wrong is done to it. Even among wild animals, a mother will give her life to save her offspring. So, people respond to that degree of love with an equally fierce loyalty.

To understand this truth, we have to understand the church. The church is a family, the family of God. Through baptism we have been adopted as children of God. God is our father and Christ is our brother. And everyone else in the world who has been baptized is our kin.

When Jesus was told that his mother and brothers were looking for him, what did he say? He said, "who are my brothers and my mother? Those who do the will of my father are my brothers and sisters and mother." When we are baptized we are joined by the power of the spirit to a new family.

In God's eyes, we cease to be John Doe and Jane Doe. And we become children of our Heavenly Father. In this family the older and experienced members have the responsibility of raising and caring for the younger and inexperienced members.

In that sense we are all parents to those who are growing in the faith around us. (*Vitalis, who discipled me when I became a Christian in 1969, Maria Heuberger, in Kitzingen Germany, Maria Forum Jensen, Olgod in Denmark*).

I give credit to many godly people who have help shaped my faith and believe in the God in my Christian journey. I believe that in Christ we are all foster mothers and fathers of God's children. So today we honour all women in the church, because in God's eyes you are mothers all.

More and more I do worry about the dangerous effect of the world. The world wants to lure God's children into ways of life that offer no real fulfillment: into materialism, into drugs, into hatred, into spiritual alienation from God. It's easy to immunize them against the diseases of the body, but what about the diseases of the soul.

In the light of this awesome responsibility that Christian mothers have I feel that Paul's letter to the Ephesians the first chapter, "I have heard of *your faith* in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to *give thanks* for you as I remember you in my prayers" (Eph.1:15-23).

" In this passage Paul gives thanks for the faith and love of the Ephesians. Obviously, they were a people who had great faith in Jesus. And obviously they were a people who lived out that faith in love for one another. They were a church of Christian mothers and fathers who cared well for God's children.

But Paul knew that the Ephesians faced trouble. So, he begins to pray for them. He prays that they receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation. He also prays that the eyes of their hearts be enlightened so that they may know of the hope they have in Christ.

It is important to note what it is he wants them to see. He wants them to see what is their **hope** and their **power**. Paul knew that the forces opposed to the Ephesians were greater than they were. The people of the church of Ephesus would be easily crushed by their foes.

But Paul also knew that Jesus the ascended, had all things, all powers, were subject under him, even the powers which opposed Ephesus. This was their **hope**: the power of the glorified Christ, the power of God Almighty. Like Paul, I give *thanks for the faith* and love of the mothers of this church.

I remember the love and nurture of many of them. There was my own mother of course. Her example of faith, trust, and devotion to Jesus Christ had a great effect on me. She is one of the reasons I am a Christian today. But there were many others whom I eluded to earlier.

The image of God as Shepherd is a good example of this. God cares for us as a good shepherd. God provides for our every need. God takes us to green pastures and leads us beside still waters. And God protects us from wild animals that would devour us.

Like a mother, God prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies. When others would flee, God remains steadfast. Providing for our every need. Just like a mother who stands by her child through difficult times.

Of course, God's love is greater than any love a human can produce. "Motherlove" is only an analogy that helps us understand God's love. But it's a good analogy. It helps us understand how loving and giving God's love is. The most unconditional example of human love is a Mother's love.

To say that God loves us more than that at least gives us a frame of reference. Jesus is the prime example of God's "Motherlove." In Jesus God died for his children. The ultimate expression of love is to give one's life for another. (John 15:13)

This life is very short, though it can feel endless when we encounter very demanding, difficult, and desperate days ~ and people. Feeling supported in the trials of faith by the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit, and in community, we can come to believe that working in, through, and by love, first, last, and always ~ as best we can in this mortal time ~ will get us eternal reward.

We need the insight to know what is true and good. We need the patience to persevere. We need the grace to be forgiving when little hands and feet do what they shouldn't. We need the faith to know that a point comes when we can't do anything and that it is all in the Lord's hands.

I also pray we might have the insight into the *power*, which is our *hope*. The source of this *power is the glorified Jesus Christ*. What will be our prayer to God after these readings? What part of Christ's mission now calls to you and I before we venture into the world again?

As God knows our hearts, I pray to continually seek to love and serve Christ during all my living days, and to love and serve others in Christ's name. As the original 12 were chosen by Jesus, and Matthias was chosen by God, we, too, are empowered to fulfill the Mission and Ministry of our Redeemer. We, now, are The Chosen to carry on Christ's mission here and now. You and I can only succeed at being a Christian mother if our source of power is the one who ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God Almighty, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Happy Mother's Day

May 12, 2024