

Motherhood Today – “Nothing Is Impossible with God!”

Luke 1:26-38 - An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus

26 One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee
27 with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. 28 The angel greeted Mary and said, **“You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.”**

29 **Mary was confused** by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. 30 Then the angel told Mary, **“Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you,** 31 and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. 33 He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

34 Mary asked the angel, **“How can this happen? I am not even married!”**

35 The angel answered, **“The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you.** So your child will be called the holy Son of God. 36 Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. 37 **Nothing is impossible for God!”** 38 Mary said, **“I am the Lord's servant!** Let it happen as you have said.” And the angel left her.

One Mother's Day, a young boy is pictured standing by his mother's bed. "Hey, Mom! Wake up. I made you a Mother's Day card." "My, how sweet of you." she says. "I did it all by myself. Go ahead & read it."

She begins to read: "I was going to buy a card with hearts of pink & red. But then I thought I'd rather spend the money on me instead.

It's awfully hard to buy things when one's allowance is so small.

So I guess you're pretty lucky I got you anything at all.

Happy Mother's Day. There, I've said it. Now I'm done.

So how about getting out of bed & fixing breakfast for your son.

"I'm deeply moved." said his mother. "Did you notice the part about my allowance?" He asks.

A. Well, some of you may feel like the young boy's mother this morning, wondering if anybody's going to say, "Thank you, Mom, for all the good stuff you do." Being a mother is a tough job & we recognize & honor that today.

On Mother's Day, Mothers really begin thinking about their role as a mother, asking their self: "Am I too tough or am I too lenient? Do I give in too much or too seldom? Do I listen to what they have to say? Do I understand them? Do I nag them too much? Am I really a good parent?"

B. In fact, mothers recognize all too well that as they send their children off in the morning all kinds of things lie in wait to waylay them –

Things like drugs & gangs & alcohol & pornography. And they must be strong if they are going to overcome that.

In the past, our educational system encouraged development of Christian principles & attitudes. But today that is not necessarily true.

Too often, children are being taught that there are no absolute standards of right & wrong. Anything goes, & everything is permissible, as long as it feels good.

So it's difficult being a Christian mother today. But as hard as that may be, we need to realize that difficulties are not unique to our time. In every age Motherhood has had its share of difficulties.

For example, let's look at Mary, the mother of Jesus, & consider some of the difficulties she faced, & apply them to our lives today.

I. THE DIFFICULTIES MARY FACED

A. First of all, she faced the difficulty of a tarnished reputation.

- Mary was pregnant out of wedlock. Now we know the rest of the story, & that the child in her womb was of the Holy Spirit, & is the Son of God.

- **But do you think they believed that story in the little town of Nazareth?**
- **If you come from a small town** you know **gossip is a hot item** in small towns.
- **Here's this unmarried teenage girl** expecting a child.
- Oh, how **the gossipers** must have enjoyed talking about that!

In fact, 30 years later when Jesus was beginning His ministry,

- His enemies said to Him, **"We are not illegitimate children."**
- **In opposing Him** they weren't above putting in what they thought was a knife & twisting it.

On this Mother's Day you may not feel too comfortable. Maybe there are **some things in your past** that you're **not very proud of,** & you **feel guilty.**

Let me remind you. God FORGIVES!!!

- Encourage your children **not to repeat** the mistakes you made,
- Help them realize that **God is a God of mercy & grace.**
- You have had **a new beginning with Him,** so ***encourage them*** to live lives that are worthy of His love.

B. Secondly, Mary experienced the difficulty of poverty. Jesus was rich & then He became poor for our sakes.

Philippians 2:6-8 - 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Are you poor? If you have **experienced the pressure** of trying to **buy the things your children want –**

- Teach them that **life does not consist of the abundance of things** we possess.
- Teach them **important** things, **Eternal things** that will last forever & ever.
- **Love is free.** Well, maybe **not free.** But it **doesn't cost money.** It just costs **time & attention & emotion.**

C. 3rd Mary faced the difficulty of people's hatred for her child, even at His birth.

Matthew 2:13 - 13 After the wise men had gone, ***an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."***

- **When Jesus was born evil was set in motion to do away with Him.**

The same thing happens when a child is born today, for *Satan sees that child as God's gift to you.*****

Psalms 127:3 - Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord.

- Satan knows that the **quickest way to destroy your family is to:**
- **Attack your child** who **doesn't have the maturity or power** to deal with him.

Jesus said of Satan: John 8:44 - Your father is the devil, and you do exactly what he wants. He has always been a murderer and a liar. There is nothing truthful about him. He speaks on his own, and everything he says is a lie. Not only is he a liar himself, but he is also the father of all lies.

To protect your children in their vulnerable years you may have to curtail the T.V. or computer, video games, & monitor **what's being viewed** in your living room or in your child's bedroom. **You may even have to shut them off.**

You may have to go to school occasionally & talk to teachers & administrators about **what your children are being taught.**

You will need to **discipline them & train them** to **respect adults & authority, & to grow up to be strong Christian men or women.**

A Mother on the news said:

What a kid needs today is Love, Understanding, and Discipline and they don't get all of them in today's world!

D. One other difficulty Mary experienced was being a single mom.

We don't know what happened to Joseph. *Many scholars assume* that he must have died when Jesus was in His late teens or early twenties, for the **last time he is mentioned was when Jesus was 12 years old & in the Temple at Jerusalem.**

After that trip, Joseph is never mentioned again. So, Mary became a single mom, raising Jesus & their other children by herself.

***I want to say to you single moms, our hats are off to you.* You must be both mom & dad to your kids.**

When you get up early on Sunday & go through all the work of getting your children ready for church –

- That's **double work for you**, & we want you to know **it doesn't go unnoticed**.
- **May God bless you & your children** for what you're doing.

II. THE RESOURCES MARY HAD - Mary faced many difficulties, but she also had some valuable resources.

A. Her first resource was a strong commitment to doing God's will.

Luke 1:35 - And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you*"; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Then Mary answered: Luke 1:38 - "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

- **Mary knew** that the baby in her womb was God's only begotten Son!
- **Giving birth to Jesus she was doing what God commissioned her to do.**

Mom's have the privilege of sharing with God in the creation of new life.

- ***When God places a child in your arms: His will for you* is to bring them up in a home where they will know God, His Word, and Jesus as Lord!!!!**

B. Secondly, she had the resource of Jesus being an obedient child.

Hebrews 4:15 - Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!

Mary had the wonderful blessing of a child who was obedient.

- *The best thing you can give your mom* on Mother's Day, kids, is to be obedient. Just be a loving & obedient child!

That's commanded in scripture: **Ephesians 6:1 - Children and Parents** - Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents.

I like the story about the little boy who came into where his mom was & announced that he had 2 pieces of candy. She asked him,

"What are you going to do with them?" He answered, "I'm going to eat them."

Thinking this was a great teaching opportunity, she said to him, *"Don't you think you ought to share the candy with your brother?"* He answered, *"I don't have enough to share. So, I'm going to eat them myself."*

Well, it was obvious that he needed to be taught about generosity. So, she asked, *"What do you think Jesus would do if He had 2 pieces?"* He answered, *"I think Jesus would make 2 more pieces of candy & give them to His brother."*

We don't always do the right thing, do we? *But it would be great to have an obedient child?*

C. Thirdly, she had a supportive husband. Now again, we know that Joseph was with her for at least 12 years, and probably a few years longer before he died.

However much time God allowed them to have together, it is obvious that Joseph was supportive of Mary.

The Bible says, Matthew 1:24 - When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

I've always imagined that Joseph was a caring, supportive man in Mary's life, who was there for her whenever she needed him.

May I say to all the husbands & fathers here:

- **The best thing you can give your wife, the mother of your children,**
- **Is to be supportive of her, to pray for her, encourage her, & *always to be there for her*.**

Billy Graham says his favorite story is of a husband who was not very attentive to his wife.

But one day he started feeling guilty about that & decided to change. So, on his way home from work he bought a box of candy & some flowers to surprise his wife.

He walks up to the door & rings the doorbell. She opens it, & there he stands, candy in one hand, flowers in the other, singing, ***"I love you truly, truly, Dear."***

Instantly she starts crying, big old tears just gushing out of her eyes. She sobs, ***"Oh, Harry! Everything went wrong today.*** We had a leak in the plumbing. The kids were terrible. The house is a wreck. ***And now you come home drunk!"***

So be careful of how supportive you are. I mean, sometimes you may need to slip into it just a step at a time. But be a good, supportive husband.

D. Finally, she had a close friend who encouraged her.

Elizabeth exclaimed Luke 1:42 - In a loud voice she said to Mary: God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have.

If you remember the story, as Mary is expecting Jesus, she went to be with Elizabeth, an older woman, who was also expecting a child - a miracle birth with her as well.

She was expecting John the Baptist. And they spent about 6 months together - ***encouraging one another***.

Hebrews 3:13 - But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

We need to encourage the moms today & help them realize they're doing a job that no one else can do.

- Mary was rewarded for her faithfulness as a mother.
- She was there to see Jesus resurrected from the dead.
- She was in the upper room when the 120 gathered to pray & the Holy Spirit came upon them.
- She lived to see her other children accept Jesus as Messiah & Lord, too.
- And the God who rewarded her has promised to reward us, too.

LUKE 1:37 "NOTHING IS IMPOSIBLE WITH GOD"

Vs.38 Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said."

CLOSE: Mother's Day is kind of a mixed bag.

- If you have experienced the death of your mother, this could be a day of mourning & grieving as you remember how much you miss her....
- If you're childless, you may feel empty & perhaps unfilled.
- If you had a poor relationship with your mother, you may wish somehow you could undo that. But it may be too late.

But here's the good news: "NOTHING IS IMPOSIBLE WITH GOD"

- Hang in there, Mothers!
- God's power is yours, & He will help you as you mother your children.
- God bless you on this very special day.
- If you're here & you're not a Christian we extend the invitation of Jesus & invite you to come to Him & accept Him as your Savior & Lord.

Luke 1:37 – Nothing is impossible with God!