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## No Greater Joy

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### **Happy Mother's Day**

***Psalm 127:3*** **Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**

**3 John 4** **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**

That is the title of the message: "No Greater Joy." I want to wish all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day. I talked to my mom and she is still in the hospital in rehab and I have the mother of my children here with me.

#### → **What My Mother Taught Me**

My mother taught me RELIGION: When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, "You better pray the stain will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me LOGIC: From her decisive words, "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

My mother taught me about WEATHER: "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have a wonderful Mom like you do!"

Thanks Mom!

We choose to celebrate Mother's Day today, but I don't want to preach something that might exclude a goodly portion of the congregation and so I'm preaching not just to mothers this morning. I am preaching to all:

- Those who are godly mothers
- Those who have either known the great blessing and experienced the joy of having a godly mother to raise them
- Those who have the potential of being a godly mother
- Those who could ever possibly have an influence upon a child's life.

So that's each and every one of us, including the men.

You don't have to be called to preach or called to be a missionary to some foreign shore to be a soul winner.

Everyone lives where there might be some boy riding his bicycle up and down the street in front of your house who has no daddy and no mother to bring him to Jesus. You could be the one to bring them to Jesus.

Everyone lives in a neighborhood where there's some girl in a broken home that cries herself to sleep at night and wonders if anybody loves her. You could be the one to tell her about Jesus.

You don't have to go to Mexico or China or Zimbabwe to do some great work for God. You could get some boy or some girl from your neighborhood into Sunday school or in the church house and let them learn about Jesus.

All of us need to learn what lies outside our safe, sheltered world of Christian friends and godly people. I'll tell you these boys and girls growing up in our

towns today—whether rural or urban—most don't stand a chance if we don't get out there and get them to Jesus. Their home lives are horrific and without some godly influence they will not bring joy to anyone's life and will not experience the joy that comes from living for Jesus.

## TURN TO PROVERBS

John wrote, "*I have **no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth,***" yet the Bible also says:

***Proverbs 17:21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.***

***Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.***

***Proverbs 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.***

Mother's Day for me is a reflection on just how much our mothers have done for us. We ought to set aside a special day like today to honor them and do something special in return for their influence upon us. I love my mother and I love the mother of my children.

Sometimes in order to have a better appreciate for the physical aspects of what moms go through, it is a good idea to reflect upon the process of having children.

- Many moms (and dads) pray for a child long before he or she is born
- Many moms start off with morning sickness
- They go through the process of weight gain, bloated feet; some liken it to carrying around a bowling ball all day and every day of pregnancy
- Child birth is referred to as labor which seems like quite an appropriate term
- The pregnancy is taxing on the body and risky too where some mothers have lost their lives giving birth to a child
- After all the mother endures all that and the baby is birthed, there is the concern that comes from raising a child in this sin-sick world

What can we do to pay your mom back? Nothing, but at the bare minimum we can set aside ONE day a year to honor moms and even those who desire motherhood or become moms by proxy working in the nursery at church.

Moms should thank God if this is not a description of their relationship because far too many children do not appreciate the sacrifices made for them.

***Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. 12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. 13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. 14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men. 15 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. 17 **The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.*****

Generation defined: It can refer to a people of any particular period or those born about the same time, but also refers to the people of a particular class or sort (ie. the wicked and adulterous generation)

The pro-abortion mindset is unnatural and satanically inspired. Far too many in society, including the politicians have framed the argument around a woman's right to choose in lieu of the baby's rights to come into this world.

We just returned from China that gives another blackeye to this despicable practice that they call abortion.

In 2016, according to figures from the country's National Bureau of Statistics there were 33.59 million more men than women in China.

The reasons for the gap are well known: a traditional preference for boys, compounded by the “one child” policy instituted in 1979 that led millions of couples to abort females. This resulted in China producing one of the world’s lowest fertility rates, so they changed the one child policy in 2016 permitting couples to have two children.

The government regularly says that China has 200 million “singletons” and frets in the state news media over who will care for these single people in their old age without a family of their own. In China, elder care is the legal responsibility of adult children.

The pundits have said that the next generation needs to stop gender-selective abortion in order to get the numbers right. Interestingly, this type of abortion is illegal, but many people undergo the process, sometimes by bribing a doctor.

**Everyone one of us should be thankful for not only living in America but a mother that chose not to abort you.**

**Summary:** Not only did your mother carry you around in pregnancy having frequently gained unwanted weight that becomes hard to shed; she became sick—nauseous and throwing up. Not only did she risk her life to give birth to you, not only did she go through all of the physical strain of sleepless nights and diapering and feeding you and caring for you when you were sick, but she hopefully taught you and trained you as well for the future.

We will look at two mothers in the Bible—one very bad and one very good.

Mark 6:17-29 Herodias

Mark 7:24-30 The Syrophenician woman

(Motherhood) is the one job where, the better you are, the more surely you won't be needed in the long run.

— **Barbara Kingsolver**

The phrase “working mother” is redundant.

— **Jane Sellman**

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother, and to become fully independent.

— **Erich Fromm**

→ **A Noble Career** There is no career more noble than that of motherhood at its best.

There are no possibilities greater and in no other sphere does failure bring more serious penalties (just consider the state of the world). To attempt this task unprepared and untrained is tragic, and its results affect generations to come (some of the greatest training comes from the mentoring that takes place in the church). On the other hand, there is no higher height to which humanity can attain than that occupied by a converted, heaven-inspired, praying mother.