



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

May 14

MOTHERS DAY REFLECTION

The mothering nature of God

Some Christians may be unaware that in the Bible, God is attributed with some of the magnificent qualities that mothers can possess.

A few such references have been selected for today which will give us a dual focus on both God and motherhood.

We acknowledge at the outset of such a reflection, that Mother's Day brings up a myriad of diverse emotions and experiences for us. Some have had the wonderful privilege of mothers who are godly, selfless, caring, courageous, self-sacrificing, and loving, while others have had a far different and sadder experience. This will be a glad day for some, and a sad day for others.

It is good to acknowledge that every woman can be a mother in Christ to others irrespective of whether or not they have given birth. The contribution of godly women into the lives of others leaves a legacy not only in this world but for eternity. Their example of faith and love, shapes the lives of the men, women and children around them. I believe if we think carefully, we can all picture someone like this.

Reflection

Each of the following verses brings qualities of God that align with the qualities of mothers. Each reference will be followed by a reflective question or two, for your own use, or to discuss with others.

Readings

Isaiah 66:13 ESV

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. As we know from history the Israelites and Jerusalem were regularly under attack. In fact, Jerusalem, it's walls and its temple were largely destroyed and many of the able bodied taken into a 70 yr. captivity in the 6th Century BC. These structures were rebuilt when they returned from their exile, only to be destroyed once again by the Romans centuries later.

Here God is promising the comfort of his love in the security of their homeland and city.

- When have you turned to God in a time of great distress?
- What was your experience of God at that time?
- What qualities of God do you appreciate when you feel assailed by life?

Isaiah 49:15 ESV

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

This verse reminds us that we are never forgotten by God. God forgetting us is as ludicrous as a mother forgetting her nursing newborn.

- Have you ever felt forgotten by God?
- Did it resolve, if so, how?

Matthew 23:37 ESV

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Here Jesus illustrates his love for the people of Jerusalem by using the analogy of a mother hen, who when under attack will gather her chicks under her wings and sit down forming a safe cocoon for them, prepared to take the full brunt of whatever may assault her.

The bible is clear – Jesus gathered us to himself and took the full-frontal assault of God’s wrath for our sin. He bore our sins on the cross. He took our punishment. He laid down his life for us.

- Write down five separate words that describe your response to this wonderful truth.

Hosea 13:8 ESV

I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs; I will tear open their breast, and there I will devour them like a lion, as a wild beast would rip them open.

Here will see the ferocious protective love of God compared to a she-bear robbed of her cubs.

- List the ways 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 addresses the issue of Christians who suffer persecution and oppression.
- What will happen to the oppressors? What will happen to the oppressed?
- How and when will this ‘righting of wrongs’ occur?
- Do you often think of the Second Coming of Christ?

Prayer:

Say a prayer of thanks to God for the women who have had a positive influence in your life.