

MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE

“Nobody’s a Nobody”

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

Psalm 139:13

Mother’s Day is a day of joy and thanksgiving; a day when children celebrate their moms and, moms their children, but the truth is we live in a tough, complex world, and it isn’t that way for every mom. In an inspiring and encouraging message for Mother’s Day, Author and Bible teacher, Hilary Price, focused on every child being a child of God’s, and spoke openly and compassionately about the need for healing among mothers and even ‘want to be mothers’ whose joy may not be so great today. She opens our hearts wide to look upon every child through God’s eyes, and the precious miracle, however fragile, each one of them is.

For most of us, our first place of belonging is our family; it’s our home. If we look around the planet, all creatures have a home. It was only the Son of Man who had nowhere to lay His head because He was coming back to make His home in us. We all want to belong but there is a flip side to belonging. For everyone included, there is someone excluded. What if I don’t make that sports team? What if I’m not cool enough to be in that group of friends who have that cell phone plan where only six best friends are allowed, and I know I’m not one of them? Is there anywhere we have really, safely belonged?

The Bible tells us where we have first belonged. “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” We are not just random. The moment life started is a total mystery to us and we will never understand what it is that triggers that life other than God Himself. He knit us together. He had a pattern, stitch by stitch. He made us intricately and wonderfully out of nothing. Whenever we make something, we make it out of material that already exists, like a beautiful picture we’re painting or spinning a pot out of clay. God makes something out of nothing because He is the Creator.

The womb you were placed in was God’s choice, not yours and not even your mom’s. He placed you in a particular womb and He ordained your life. God has a purpose and a plan for each of our lives. We are told everything about us was written in a book before it came to be. We might journal our lives, look back and write about it, but remarkably, God wrote the book before it happened, and before we even stepped out of the pages, God knew all about us. Before you became your mother’s child, you were the child of your Heavenly Father, His creation. The Bible doesn’t tell us we were perfect but that we were planned by God, placed by God and precious and personal to Him. We were God’s secret, formed in a secret place. And then He put us in a secret place inside our mothers before anybody knew anything about it.

For some people, the journey from the heart of God to stay for awhile in the womb of our mothers before making an entrance into the world, is an extremely treacherous journey. And many people are hurting. For some babies, the womb, the chamber where physical life begins, actually becomes a tomb. It can be where physical life ends before it ever sees the light of day. The baby does not go full term. David writes in 2 Samuel 12:23, “Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” David was on his knees, repenting before God of the pain he had caused to Bathsheba in producing a child with her who had lost its life. He is saying he will never see this child again on earth, but he draws his comfort from knowing he would see his baby in heaven. That was all he needed to know.

Some couples long for babies and can't have them while some lose their babies they have longed for. And there are numerous reasons why women make choices to end the life inside them, which they end up regretting for the rest of their lives. It's a secret they keep buried inside, and in various ways, anaesthetize their pain. That pain needs to be brought to Jesus and He works with you to banish the guilt with healing and forgiveness.

There is a happy side to Mother's Day but a very sad side for many. We are the body of Christ and we need to face pain as well as pleasure, and tribulation as well as joy. As Christians, we cannot ignore what it means to be a mother in mourning, a mother in waiting, someone longing to be a mother, and someone grieving for their mother. God knows the pain of our hearts. And God knows the journey can be treacherous for both child and mother and it's becoming more and more treacherous in a world where we value, celebrate and even demand perfection.

Though every child is planned by God, we are still inclined to judge those who don't measure up; who don't fit into our scheme of things. We judge before we even know. In the Book of Jeremiah, God says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart." *Jeremiah 1:5*. Sometimes it isn't until we have a child who doesn't measure up to what we'd hoped for that we are introduced to God Himself. And through God's awesome ways, we discover it is ourselves who don't measure up. It is the moms and dads who need the healing. God places every child in this world with love and purpose. No matter how different, handicapped or ill our child may be, he or she is not only loved by God, but God lives in that child. And through that child, we gain tremendous insight into the depth and wonder of God's love, and it actually transforms us. One mother wrote this poem about her son:

"Our Special Gift"

*A child came into the world today.
He looked just like the rest.
Many wished he'd go away,
But God always gives what's best.*

*He grew and laboured with each step
Just to do the simple things.
He'll always need his mother's help
But God knows everything.*

*This child's not here to get degrees
Or stars beside his name.
He's simply here so we might see
Our desperate need to change.*

*O, Lord, please help us see today
Your love that is shining through,
And if we choose to turn away,
We've turned away from You.*

We are usually more comfortable being around people who look and act like us, but there's nothing special in that. There's no great challenge, but how blessed we are when we learn from those who are mentally or physically disabled. The prefix "dis" always has negative connotations – disabled, disconnected, discouraged, disgruntled, dysfunctional, disinterested, disappointed, but here's a twist on the "dis" from Jesus Himself. "If you hold to my teaching, you are truly my

disciples.” *John 8:31*. “By this, all men will know you are my **disciples**, if you have love for one another.” *John 13:35*. The truly handicapped ones in our midst are those who cannot see beyond someone’s stutter or dribble or lack of balance to the person who is “wonderfully made”. For in God’s eyes, nobody’s a nobody. We are all His treasures, created by Him, and loved by Him.