

Story my mom

This is a special day, **one** day out of the year to *draw attention to & celebrate* Mothers. It can be a **sad** day if mom is no longer w/ us. And a sad day if mom is w/ us & a precious child of theirs is not. For them the hope of David rings true after losing his 2 year old; *'I shall go to him but he shall not return to me'*. It's the hope we have in Christ **John 17:24** *"Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.*

But they are missed & mother's day is be bitter-sweet. God made it a point that mothers be honored. Why? They are the greatest influencers in society

Chuck Swindoll *There is no more influential or powerful role on earth than a mother's. Significant as political, military, education, or religious public figures may be, none can compare to the impact made by mothers. Their words are never fully forgotten, their touch leaves an indelible impression, and the memory of their presence lasts a lifetime....Abraham Lincoln was right: "No one is poor who had a godly mother."*

As mom goes so goes the household—*Man may be the head of the home but mothers are the heart*. In God's eyes honoring mother is first on His priority list of 10 commandments. The second tablet begins w/ it **Ex 20:12** & adds the promise of a blessed life for those who do it (Eph 6:2,3).

Paul uses a **motherhood** metaphor to illustrate how he & pastors are to be tender in ministering to God's flock **1Thes 2:7** *But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.*

Motherhood is used to illustrate the joy of a godly life **Ps 113:9** *He gives children to the childless wife, so that she becomes a happy mother. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. (TLB)* **Motherhood** is used to describe a person resting & contentment in the Lord

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Ps 131:2 Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. A **mothers** teaching is the guiding light of a child throughout their life **Prov 6:20-21 My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck.** A **mother** is used to **illustrate** the spiritual truth of salvation by grace & our freedom in Christ. **Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.** God spends a lot of time making a point of honoring mothers all the days of our life & celebrating their memory after they are gone.

Jill Briscoe in 'Here I am Lord, send someone else' writes 'my mother-in-law, who is now a resident of heaven, was used only once, as far as she knew, to lead someone to Christ. That seven-year-old boy was just an ordinary little boy, and no one could know that forty years later Stuart Briscoe would be used throughout the world to lead many, many people to Christ.'

A while back friend of my mom's came to service said hello as well as some wonderful words about my mom—**mom didn't get to see completion of facility**—I said please say hellow to my wife, she will appreciate it. Danita said, *'she made me cry...I miss mom.'* Danita was her best friend.

Some mom's are like the **woman at the well**—hard life before coming to Christ. Others' are like **Mary**, blessed from their youth, favored by Lord. They seem to grow up in **shelter** of God's grace, mercy & protection. But whatever the story & background of their life they are to be honored & appreciated. **A few exceptions: Athalia, Jezebel, Saphira**

Mother's w/ the greatest reputation in heaven are those who leave the greatest impact by their faith on earth. They can move mountains by their faith. They're like a ship weathering huge storms & high seas while staying the course because of ballast—keeps ship upright & on course.

Mother's ballast is her faith & she moves mountains of unbelief in the heart of a wayward child or ungrateful husband-brings to a place of faith in Christ.

God said of Mary, mother of Jesus ***'favored one, Lord is with you, you have found favor w/ God, you shall bear a son'***. No greater honor to be said yet w/ honor comes' duty---the duty of being a witness for Christ. ***'A sword shall pierce your own soul'*** **Lk 2:35** and it did, yet she remained faithful. How?

Now a single mom—Joseph had died likely when Jesus teenager, leaving at least 7 siblings. She lived under the shadow of scandal. ***'We were not born of fornication.'*** **Jn 8:41** Bore the brunt of people calling her son demonized, a deceiver, insane, beside himself & wanting to take Him home to care for Him ***Mark 3:21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." (NIV)***

Finally seeing Him die on a cross in front of her eyes for saying He is son of God—Only after Jesus resurrection did His family believe. Mary was one in the upper room when Holy Spirit fell. She lived a life of faith in difficult times

Sarah wife of Abraham is the faith woman are told to emulate, live by. ***1 Pet 3:6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.***

There are many things to be concerned about in life but faith keeps the life on course. As FDR said ***'we have nothing to fear but fear itself'***. Sarah didn't fear, fear. She trusted the Lord in the most difficult circumstances, even when her husband was untrustworthy.

She left her home to go roam w/ Ab, didn't know where. ***Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you;***

Famine forced Ab to Egypt & he lied about Sarah—*she's my sister*.

Sarah's faith, failed, she took things into her own hands—I'm old take

Hagar (Ab not covering her very well) ***Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.***

Sarah was despised in Hagar's eyes--***Gen 16:4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. Sarah treated Hagar harshly until she fled.***

Name change Sarai--contentious to Sarah—princess ***17:15,16 Bless her, mother of nations.***

God says His covenant to Abraham will be thru Sarah w/ Isaac 17:21

Sarah serves, prepares meal for Lord—*'Sarah shall bear a son—she laughs in her mind, thinking I'm too old-why laugh?-denies laughing-busted, you did laugh.*

Again Ab says Sarah my sis and she plays along. Isaac is born 'God made laughter for me'. Drive out Hagar and Ishmael—listen to Sarah

She endures suspense of Ab taking Isaac to Mt Moriah to offer him. Ch 22

Sarah dies 127 yrs old—half her life was spent in trial and trusting.

Heb 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised;

When a woman has a reputation in heaven by her faith on earth God corrects the record. Although Sarah waivered at times we have no record of it in the NT. What was the secret to Sarah's faith that overcame all odds?

Sarah lived for & trusted in God first. Her husband & everyone else followed. Whole hearted trust ***Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Isa 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. (NKJ)***

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Second she realized God's blessing upon her were directly proportionate to her honoring her husband. *'calling him lord' even when undeserved Prov 14:1*

The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down w/ her own hands

God is greater than any difficulties over family, husband, children? God's will that you have peace & assurance in the most troubling circumstances.

That the peace of God that passes understanding guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Trust in the Lord, He will do it.

Mothers we honor and pray God's blessings upon this special day.