

“A Mother Called by God”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Texts: Luke 1:26-38; Proverbs 31:10-31; John 19:25
- B. A Review in Pictures
 - 1. **[i]** Silver Saints Luncheon back in April
 - 2. **[ii]** Nursing Home Visit was made on May 6 (18 people)
 - 3. **[iii]** Cook for Ronald McDonald House on May 23rd (see bulletin for more information)
 - 4. **[iv]** May’s Project: Help for Hondurans
- C. **[S1]** "If evolution is true, how come mothers still have only two hands?" - Spotted on a church sign
- D. “A Handful”
 - 1. **[S2]** A mother put her son to bed on **the eve of his fifth birthday**. She was trying to communicate that birthday idea to him.
 - 2. "Kevin," she said, "this is the last night of your fourth year. Do you understand that?"
 - 3. Kevin was ready to communicate with his hands. For a full year, he had shown people four fingers for his four years, and now he was ready to add a thumb.
 - 4. Seeing his four fingers, his mother nodded, and said: "When you go to sleep tonight, you'll still be 4-years-old. But do you know how old you'll be in the morning, when you wake up?"
 - 5. **[S2A]** Kevin nodded enthusiastically, added his thumb to his four little fingers and said, "**Tomorrow, I'll be a handful!**"
- E. **Happy Mother’s Day!** For all the mothers who have had their hands full, we love and appreciate you!
- F. **History's most famous mother** was called by God to her task, just as parents today are called by God to their task.

- G. **Let's learn some things about what it means to be a *mother called by God*.** These lessons are for “**mothers AND others,**” for we can all learn from Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- H. **A mother called by God...**
- I. **[S3] Submits Completely to God's Will.**
- A. READ Luke 1:26-38.
- B. When Mary was likely only a teen-ager, she was confronted with the challenge to be completely submitted to God's will.
- C. When Gabriel gave her the angelic message that she was to carry the Christ, Mary was stunned.
- D. **[S4]** The key phrase? “³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.” – Luke 1:38.
- E. “Mary had learned to forget the world’s commonest prayer – ‘Thy will be *changed*’ – and to **pray the world’s greatest prayer – ‘Thy will be *done*’**” (Barclay Luke 13).
- F. “Was she nervous? Certainly. Was she unsure of her own abilities? Who wouldn't be? Was she anxious about the prophecy that part of her future would include pain? Of course.” – Cook
- G. **[S5]** The prophecy that part of her future would include pain comes from Simeon’s prophecy: “³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’” – Luke 2:34-35
- H. **Yet, Mary never wavered from her complete submission to God's will.**
- I. What a model for each of us – mothers and all others!
- J. **A mother called by God...**
- II. **[S6] Is Not Perfect.**
- A. This is great news!

- B. Linda Huckins, of Malden, Massachusetts, tried perfection one day, on the day her daughter got married. As she tells the story, she went to the front of the church auditorium to light one of the three candles. “Not realizing the potential hazard, I got too close and **set my acrylic nail on fire.**”
1. “Trying not to ruin my daughter's big day, I calmly lit the candle from my flaming nail and then, like a gunslinger with his six-shooter, I blew it out.”
 2. “Needless to say, my blackened nail was the talk of the reception!” (Linda Huckins, Malden, Massachusetts. "Rolling Down the Aisle," Christian Reader).
- C. This shouldn't surprise us, but **Mary was not perfect.**
- D. **[S6A]** Yes, she was “highly favored” (Luke 1:28): “And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you.” – Luke 1:28. She found favor with God (Luke 1:30), because God selected her to give birth and raise the Son of God.
- E. **But she was not perfect.** I can say that because she was human, not divine. She had fears. She had concerns. On at least one occasion, she searched frantically for Jesus because she didn't know where He was (when He was 12-years-old).
- F. She made mistakes. She committed blunders. Her intentions were good I'm sure, but she still erred. Despite the fact that she was the mother of Jesus, Mary wasn't perfect!
- G. Mothers and others: “You've made mistakes in the past, you'll certainly make a mistake or two today, and you'll make more mistakes tomorrow. Through it all, God will love you, work with you, and accept you. Through it all, your task of mothering, or of grand-mothering, will be accomplished” (Cook). Just keep seeking to do God's will, His way.
- H. How many women have been discouraged by the last few words of Proverbs about **the “worthy woman”**? It is there that the author writes of the perfect woman.
1. **[S7]** “Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies...”
– Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Summary: “There are 22 lines in the poem, and each one of them begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It's **an acrostic poem** that speaks of an imaginary woman. She never sleeps, and she always works. (OK, so that's the part of the poem that is reality.) But in the poem, she ... runs a farm, she manages a staff, she sews like a fashion expert, she cooks, cleans, and home-schools her children. She has a feast waiting on her husband when he arrives home from his ... job, and she needs no car pool whatsoever. She simply puts on her Super-mother cape and flies her children to their next appointment” (Cook). Ok, that last part was an exaggeration! ☺
 3. The writer of these proverbs (King Lemuel, Proverbs 31:1) is describing **the “ideal woman.”**
 4. Andy Cook: “If we were to see in English what we can't see in Hebrew, perhaps it would be a poem that said, ‘A is for the Apple pie she bakes; B is for the Babies she loves; C is for the Cleaning of the house;’ right on down to ‘Z is for the Zoo she manages in the back yard.’ Any woman who tries to emulate the woman of Proverbs 31 will understand the first line that says, ‘A wife like this ... who can find her?!’”
 - I. A mother called by God is not perfect. She can't be, because none of us is perfect (Romans 3:23). All any of us can do is our best. We can strive for perfection; we should. But we can never be perfect.
 - J. **But we can be used by God to accomplish much good!**
 - K. **A mother called by God...**
- III. **[S8] Never Relinquishes the Title.**
- A. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother...
 - B. **[S9]** (John 19:25-27 NKJV) Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" {27} Then He

said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

- C. **I cannot imagine** Mary standing stoically and passively by at the foot of the cross. I think she probably crumpled at the cross. She likely fell down to the depths there, moaning and wailing and begging the God of heaven to stop her hell on earth (adapted from Cook).
- D. Andy Cook: "The truth of Simeon's prophecy at the birth of Jesus was suddenly true. The cross cut deeply into Mary's heart. **Despite the pain, however, Mary was there.** She was a mother from the beginning, and a mother at the end."
- E. A mother called by God never relinquishes the title.
- F. Andy Cook: "You'll find mothers like that in the halls of children's hospitals, in funeral homes and in the counselors' offices. Mothers never relinquish the title, even if the child is rebellious, harsh, or cruel. Her heart just will not allow it. Not when she is called by God."
- G. "When a woman becomes a mother, when a man becomes a father, there is an instant realization that the day will almost certainly come when pain [may enter] the picture. The crosses are different for every family, but frankly, the crosses usually come. There may be a divorce, or disease, or death. There may be harsh words, and unacceptable actions. There may be tough love and [long] nights" (Cook).\
- H. Through it all, mothers called by God never relinquish the title. Never. There is nothing like a mother's love.
- I. "A Mother's Love"
1. **[S10]** A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...
 2. **[S11]** It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...

It believes beyond believing when the world around
condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest
gems...

3. **[S12]** It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
and it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...
A many-splendored miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding
hand. -- Helen Steiner Rice

- J. **[S13]** Godly Mothers Teach Us: Love Never Fails. **1**
Corinthians 13:7-8 (NKJV) Love “⁷bears all things, believes all
things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails.”
Love stays – like the love of a mother for her children.

IV. **CONCLUSION**

- A. Godly Mothers Teach Us and Demonstrate to Us the Love of
God.
B. INV.
C. **[S14]** (blank slide)

SOURCES:

Barclay, William. The Gospel of Luke. Revised edition. *The Daily Study Bible Series*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1975.

Cook, Andy. “Sermon: A Mother Called by God - Luke 1.” Andy Cook is the Pastor of Shirley Hills Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.
<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/sermon-mother-called-by-god-elizabeth-mary-luke-1>

Sargent, David A. “A Godly Mother’s Love.” Sermon outline.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, renowned surgeon at Johns Hopkins, tells a moving story about his mother. Mrs. Carson insisted that Ben and his brother Curtis write a book report every couple of weeks. This wasn't for school - this was for their mom. Ben and Curtis dutifully obeyed.

About the time he was in junior high, Ben finally realized something quite shocking. His mom couldn't read. For years Ben had read books and scratched out reports, assuming that his mom was checking every word. But she didn't have a clue what he was saying.

Now consider this: Raised by an illiterate mother, Ben grew up to be a world-famous surgeon who was featured in many articles and was the author of several books. His illiterate mom didn't twist her hands over her lack of learning and give up hope of raising intelligent boys. Instead, she gave her boys what she had - interest, accountability, and the courage to demand extra work. (Gifted Hands, 1990, Ben Carson in Cook).