

FROM A MOTHER'S HEART TO YOURS...



MOTHERS, DID YOU KNOW?

May 2021

A while ago, as two ladies and I were having a conversation about some of the most well-known and influential people in the world, I asked, "If you had the chance to have lunch with one of them, who would that be?" One lady simply shrugged her shoulders. The other one, however, after I answered her question that it could be someone that had already passed away, replied, "Then it would be Mary, the mother of Jesus." Intrigued, I asked her what was the reason for her choice. "Well," she said, "because I'd like to know how she felt, as a mother, to have raised a son like Jesus!"

I have to say that the story of Mary is quite compelling. As the Bible tells us, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God. Mary then said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" And the angel went away. (Luke 1:26-33, 38)

As we read this amazing story, it is evident that Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of a child who eventually became the most powerful, and influential man in the history of the world. However, did Mary know the full story of what would become of her son as she carried him in her womb, and raised him as a child? Did she know what she, herself, would go through? Yet, following the angel's divine message concerning her, she saw herself as a humble servant, and accepted willfully God's mission to carry, and raise this exceptional child.

The day Mary, and her husband, Joseph, went to the temple to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required; Simeon, a just and righteous man was there. God had promised him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Therefore, when he saw them, he took the baby in his arms, praised God for having fulfilled His promise to him, and said to Mary, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul." (Luke 2:22-35) Wow! I can only imagine how Mary must have felt at these words. Perhaps, astonished, perplexed or scared? Probably all of the above, but the Bible doesn't say. If I had been in her shoes, I would have certainly braced myself for the worst yet to come...

No doubt Mary must have been heartbroken as she watched her son go through much adversity during His three years of ministry. The rejection he took from His own people, the opposition and false accusations coming from the religious leaders, the excruciating pains He endured at the hands of merciless soldiers; not to mention the unbearable sorrow she must have felt while she watched him, helplessly, hanging on a cross in total agony. Evidently, God gave her the grace, strength, and courage to accomplish her mission until the end...

Mary had a special calling on her life, which brought some unique challenges as well. However, she also had the extraordinary privilege and joy of giving birth, and raising a child who became the Savior of the world. He was the Son of God coming in a bodily form. He was born without sin, had the power to cast out demons, and to forgive sinners. He was a miracle worker who transformed the lives of a multitude of people. Evidently, because Mary had a very unique mission, we cannot compare our own life with hers. However, as mothers, we also have our share of challenges as we strive to do our best in raising our families, don't we? Yet, we can all agree that our children are a source of wonderful blessings in our lives.

Before we even began our first journey into motherhood, did we know how radically our lives would change? Did we know how challenging it would be? Did we know everything about how to raise a kid, and how our child would turn out to be in life? None of us could predict the outcome of it all... However, despite all of the unknowns, a great majority of us embarked with great enthusiasm on this new adventure of a lifetime! At some point, however, the reality sort of crept in on us, didn't it? We may have been overwhelmed, and so exhausted with the constant demands, and the needs of a newborn baby, that the thought of going, *alone*, on a remote island, and hide there for a while was quite appealing! Honestly, do we know of any mother who never felt this way at one point?..

As we continue raising our families, the responsibilities, and challenges can be overwhelming. However, all the time and efforts we put in, as well as the spiritual, and good moral values we instill in our children are not in vain. We're actually investing a few years of our lives in our future generation of men and women, as we guide them to become responsible, and caring individuals that will contribute positively to the world around them. It is quite a lofty goal, but a worthwhile one; wouldn't you say? And when our children are all grown up, it's then time for us to watch them live their own lives, while being available when they need our help and support.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6) While I was raising my own children, this proverb always encouraged me to keep up the good work, and to trust God in all things concerning them. My days as a hectic young mother ended years ago. However, I have to say that this particular season of my life was the most fulfilling, and exciting adventure I've ever lived! These days being over, I now enjoy watching my dear sons raise their own families, and be a grandmother to six wonderful grandchildren! This is a mother's life circle, isn't it?

As we celebrate Mother's Day, I want to pay tribute to all the mothers who are consistently, and selflessly giving of themselves for the wellbeing of their families. I also want to commend these women who are especially dear to my heart. The mothers who are raising children with special needs. The ones who have lost a son or a daughter. The women who wish to become pregnant, but cannot because of health issues. Finally, the single mothers who have no other choice, but to raise their children on their own. All I can say to you, dear Moms, is that since I've never been in your shoes, I cannot understand what you're really going through. However, I truly sympathize with you, and pray God to surround you with His love, and His peace. May He give you strength, and hope as you go through these challenging times.

I also wish to acknowledge the mothers who have finished raising their families. For many years, you have invested much time and effort in your children's lives, and you most probably enjoy this present season of your lives. No matter how you've reacted to this change, your children will always remain in your hearts. Once a mother, always a mother... Some of you may already be grandmothers, playing a

positive, and important role in the lives of your grandchildren. May the love and affection shown you on Mother's Day by your children, and grandchildren bless you richly, as you have blessed them over the years.

As a footnote, I just want to go back briefly to my conversation with the two ladies... As expected, they also asked me who I would choose to have lunch with; and my answer was my own mother who passed away when I was only three years old. Obviously, being so young, I never had the opportunity to know her; and given the chance to finally meet her would be such an amazing blessing. Oh, I realize she may not have been a well-known person in her lifetime, but these precious moments in her company would definitely be memorable... I'm not sure, though, that just having a lunch together would give us enough time to catch up with each other!..☺

**TO ALL THE MOMS OUT THERE...
HAVE A WONDERFUL MOTHER'S DAY!**

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