



From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

Happy Mother's Day!!!

Mother's Day is one of the most popular secular days in the calendar. On the second Sunday of May, greeting card companies, telephone carriers, jewelry stores and restaurants all mark this as their busiest day of the year as sons and daughters, husbands and fathers seek to honor their moms and the mothers of their children. Moms get everything from dollar-store chocolates and home-made cards to exquisite custom designed pieces. For one day, moms are the queens of the castle.

You, dear mothers, stand arm-in-arm among a long line of mothers. Adam named his wife Eve, "The Mother of All Living Things." Eve then named her first son Cain. Cain means "gift;" Eve recognized her son as a gift of God and named him appropriately. From Eve through the generations down to your mother, then to you, and – perhaps, God willing – one day your own daughter or daughter-in-law as she becomes a mother, you are among those whom God has chosen and called to be mothers.

Motherhood is, indeed, a gift – right? Oh, the joy of motherhood! Those treasured moments of holding the newborn, hearing "momma," watching the face light up when you are nearby, watching her grow into a young woman, a lifetime of firsts from first steps to first date. Then there are times when the gift turns upside down and inside out and you experience both the physical and emotional hurt. Maybe you identify with the blogging mother who wrote about the phrase, "Enjoy every moment." It's a difficult phrase to agree with, she argues, because there are some things that are hard to enjoy. She said:

Nothing makes me feel quite as overwhelmed as the words "enjoy every minute." Like do you mean right now while my kid is spread-eagle on the Target floor demanding a slushy? Do you mean when I make dinner and half of the family is crying because it looks weird?... I can do it; it's worth it. But enjoying every minute is a different type of pressure. In truth, there are a whole lot of minutes I feel annoyed or tired. (<https://wonderoak.com/2017/12/22/please-stop-telling-moms-to-enjoy-every-minute/>)

To you, Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled." Jesus words, spoken to His disciples 2000 years ago, speak to you mothers as well as you mark Mother's Day, 2025. *Thanks a lot, Pastor. I know what Jesus says, but I don't know that he quite understands what we're going through here, or what motherhood is like today.* Because if we are honest, mother's hearts **are** troubled, and they are troubled mightily. Mothers' hearts are beating with frustration, fear, hurt, anger, shame, guilt, and other things I cannot begin to understand as a man.

If that's you, pause for a moment. Take a breath and listen again to the word of the Lord: Let not your heart be troubled. Especially, I draw your attention to that word "heart." Jesus knows your heart, mother. He knows you better than you know yourself. He says let not your heart be troubled.

The troubles you have are external. They come outside of you. Sometimes, they feel internal, but that's because satan seeds them carefully so that they do take root in your heart. All the thinking in the world does not take away that grief, that anxiety, that frustration, that guilt, all that trouble that we have in our hearts. This is particularly true for mothers who carry not only their own troubles but that of their husbands and their kids – of all ages – and perhaps even their own parents as well. Jesus speaks to you: I

have come for you – heart and mind, body and soul – all of you as a person, I came and care for you as a whole. His care comes to you, dear mothers, dear sisters in Christ.

There is a verse in 1 Timothy, chapter 2:15, where St. Paul wrote, “Women will be saved through childbearing.” This does not mean that you will see eternity only if you have a child. Rather, it points us to Jesus’ incarnate birth through the Virgin Mary. Our God is incarnational. Jesus becomes flesh to make His dwelling among us. And as God incarnate, Jesus knows your heart and your troubles. Even if you cannot explain it, even if you do not have the words to enfold your troubles, He knows.

You know that awkward moment when you run into another person and each of you do that little side-to-side dance, until one of you laughs and says, “You go ahead”? Now, take that same picture, but this time, it’s Jesus. He does not get out of the way. He wants to make you stop and look at Him. He comes at you – heart, mind, body and soul – and then, joy of joys, He smiles at you. He speaks softly and gently, firmly and lovingly. He doesn’t push you aside but instead He holds you with His nail-pierced hands and says, “Let not your heart be troubled. I have stripped all your motherly sins from you – the times you sinned against your children and your spouse and even yourself – they are removed as far as the east from the west. Your guilt, your shame is no more. Don’t let Satan tell you different. I am yours. You are mine. So, let not your heart be troubled, my sister.” He knows you better than you know yourself.

You probably learned this verse as “Let not your hearts be troubled.” Hearts, plural. Now, that’s interesting. In the original Greek text, your is plural (in Texas, we would say “all y’all’s”) but heart is singular: Let not all y’all’s heart be troubled. Jesus wants you to know that, in Him, we share a common heart. Each of us have our own heart, yes, and those hearts get twitterpated over the things that happen to us. That is natural; it’s part of being a human being, under the cross, this side of heaven. But God’s people have a common heart among us. It is a common heart that we share together, a common heart, filled with the Holy Spirit, that reflects the incarnate One that comes to us and unites us as the body of Christ under His headship. That common heart that encourages, cares for, uplifts, and supports one another even as our hearts race from problems and troubles. On this Mother’s Day, know this: all of us - men and women, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers - we all share the common heart.

While the focus today is on mothers, I want this to be clear: for all of you women who are not mothers, whether by your choice, or by the mystery of God’s action, or by the fallenness of this world, that common heart of Jesus beats in you, too. United by Christ, we walk alongside you, sisters, caring for you, loving you, supporting you so that you know that in Christ you are never known by a lack of motherly vocation. Our common heart sets the Lord Jesus Christ before us, 24/7, day in and day out. With that common heart we give thanks to God for you, as well on this day.

Finally, dear mothers, receive this gift of God: the promise that the heart of Jesus beats for you. He has taken all of your guilt, your shame, your worries, your fears from you. Your conscience is clean, also washed clean in Baptism. All of the mistakes you have made in the rearing of your sons and daughters, in loving your husband, and in how you see your own self, Jesus strips all of them from you. He has heard your cry, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me,” and He does exactly that. His heart beats alongside yours. Psalm 73 says “Whom have I in heaven but you, and there is none that I desire in earth but you. My heart and my flesh might fail, but God is my heart and my portion forever.” So today or tomorrow morning or Tuesday evening and any other time when your heart is threatened to be overwhelmed, His heart beats all the stronger. When your heart is troubled, His heart beats in peace. When your heart beats with guilt and shame, His heart beats a baptismal blessing reminding you that there is now no condemnation for mothers who are in Christ Jesus.

Happy Mother’s Day!

Pastor Meyer