



MOTHER'S DAY

A DAY OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION AT CCO

TODAY WE HONOR THE BEAUTIFUL GIFT of mothers, women or *mother-mentors* who reflect God's love in ways words can hardly capture. A mother's love is patient, sacrificial, and strong. It shows up in quiet prayers whispered late at night, in gentle encouragement during hard days, and in unwavering faith that points us back to God. The Bible reminds us in Proverbs 31 that *"her children arise and call her blessed."* And today, we do just that! We rise with gratitude. To the mothers who have nurtured with grace, who have given when it was hard, who have trusted God through every season. Your love tells a story of Christ's love for us. To those who are celebrating with joy, and to those carrying tender or difficult emotions today, know this: God sees you, He honors you, and He holds you close. Motherhood is not just a role; it is a calling, a sacred opportunity to shape hearts, build faith, and plant seeds of hope. So today, we say thank you. Thank you for your strength. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your love. May God bless you richly, fill your heart with peace, and remind you that everything you do in love matters deeply. Happy Mother's Day! You are cherished and appreciated. In our hearts you remain a beautiful reflection of God's love.

You are God! We worship You! shouted Pastor Brooks. *Is the Lord good this morning?* Loud applause followed. *Welcome!*

Pastor Paul stepped forward, beaming. *It's gonna be a great day! Happy Mother's Day! Today we are paying close attention to all moms here this morning. We have a gift for you, for each mother and those who serve as moms to others. A special professional Photo Booth is set up in the foyer for photos with your family.* With this, roses were passed out with grateful hearts to all mothers gathered in the sanctuary. *Again, Happy Mother's Day! Mothers make such a difference in our lives! Without them, well, we wouldn't be around, right?* laughed Pastor Paul. *Check out the big screen. Here we have a list of upcoming events and activities. Incorrectly referencing one of these events, the date or time, he corrected himself saying: **I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NOT YET!*** Sure it was early but this was not confusion but brilliance I think! Review his statement! Use it in the future; it will cover multitudes. Still, of course, Angie had a comeback: *I think you need a doctor!*

Our good pastor was on a *roll* however, along with Angie. What a duo. Let's see. **GROWTH TRACK** today after 11am service. **GRADUATION SUNDAY** May 24th. Stepping to center stage Pastor Paul announced: *This is really*

awesome. My uncle died. No not his death but what he left me. By the way, CCO will never have to worry about finances ever again. My uncle left me 23 million! All I've got to do now is respond to him in China! There you have it. Bam! He got us again! I sat there amazed not only by his news but how easily I had received it. Pastor Paul then launched into the importance of giving. This time he was serious. Renovation of the old sanctuary stands before us, not just cosmetic changes but structural ones as well. Thank you to all who give so generously which enables CCO to further God's mission. Thank you, Lord, for all the ladies who have been moms to us. Comfort those who have lost mothers this year and those too who have served as mothers. Lord, be glorified in this church by the way we give and worship! We praise You in this place this morning. Amen. How many can say we have been blessed?

With this, we began to heartily sing a favorite hymn, *Blessed Assurance*. Across the screen stood a beautiful image of stained glass.

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS:

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.***

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

CHORUS

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

CHORUS

Hallelujah! Let's sing it again. shouted Pastor Brooks. A brief reprise followed. *Something is so powerful we have is His Name.* Next followed TRUST THE LORD.

1. Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine. He's been my fourth man in the fire, time after time.
2. Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood and what He did for me on Calvary is more than enough.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest. I know the author of tomorrow has ordered my steps.
4. So this is my story and this is my song. I'm praising my risen King and Savior all the day long.

CHORUS

I trust in God, my Savior. The One who will never fail.

BRIDGE

I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered.

Yes! He's always been on time! And faithful! said Pastor Brooks. We agreed wholeheartedly.

Are you glad you're here this morning? asked Pastor Paul, center stage. *We have a special treat for you this Mother's Day. You all know Dr. George Cope, right? He's preached here many times. Well, his wife, Cheryl Cope, usually seated in the front row while her husband preaches here, is going to share her story with us today! Cheryl Cope is an awesome Bible teacher and Christian author, as well as an amazing women's life coach. She is dedicated to helping women achieve intimacy with God through her ministry and writing. Cheryl and her husband speak all over the world and now it's our great blessing to have Cheryl Cope with us this morning! Cheryl.*

Cheryl Cope stepped to center stage: *Paul Valo has been a dear friend of ours for twenty years! He is a gift to Orlando, CCO and the Kingdom of God! You are fortunate to have him here at CCO. With this, Cheryl began to pray. Lord, we thank You for today. Clear away, we pray, all distractions. Help each of us with the application of Your Word...*

Proverbs 13:22 MSG

A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren; ill-gotten wealth ends up with good people.

Today we're going to talk about **INHERITANCE**. Usually, when we come across this word, we think *money*, but right now, let's instead take a look at **spiritual inheritance**. An important synonym for inheritance is **LEGACY**,

that is, something we leave behind for the next generation. Things like: faith, wisdom and godly living.

When Jesus walked about on earth 2000 years ago, *rabbis taught in Hebrew. Their textbook was the Torah. While the culture of Jesus' time considered women unimportant, Jesus' teaching and actions were the exact opposite. Rabbi Jesus taught in Aramaic.*

Luke 2:46 NIV

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

This is what Jesus did as a young boy. On the other hand, girls were learning housekeeping skills, not how to debate Scripture in the Temple!

INSIGHT: Jesus of Nazareth operated as a countercultural rabbi who elevated women in a patriarchal society by treating them with dignity, teaching them theology, and welcoming them as disciples. He broke social norms by engaging in public discourse with women, including them in his ministry support, and honoring them as the first witnesses to his resurrection.

Key ways Jesus elevated women included:

- **Teaching and Discipleship:** Jesus welcomed women to learn theology, exemplified by Mary of Bethany sitting at his feet—a position typically reserved for male students of a rabbi.
- **Breaking Social Barriers:** He defied conventions by speaking to women in public, such as the Samaritan woman at the well, and allowed women to travel with him to support his ministry.
- **Restoring Dignity:** Jesus interacted with marginalized women, such as the woman with a chronic bleeding condition, restoring their physical and social dignity without rebuke.
- **Active Ministry Partnership:** Women were not only followers but also active patrons who funded Jesus' ministry and were entrusted with the first testimony of his resurrection.
- **Defending Against Misogyny:** He challenged legalistic interpretations used to exclude women, referring to a woman as a

"daughter of Abraham" and protecting women facing harsh social judgment.

This approach redefined the role of women, emphasizing their equality and spiritual worth, establishing them as key participants in the Gospel story.

Let's look at a few of the women in the Bible. Mary and Martha in Bethany, were two of Jesus' good friends. Consider Luke 10:38-42.

In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. Martha becomes overwhelmed with serving, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet to listen to his teaching. When Martha asks Jesus to make Mary help, Jesus gently corrects her, stating that Martha is worried about too many things and that Mary has chosen the "better part".

Key Aspects of the Narrative:

- **Hospitality vs. Distraction:** Martha is not rebuked for serving, but for being "distracted" and "worried" by it to the point of neglecting the guest of honor.
- **The "Better Part":** Jesus emphasizes that prioritizing time to listen to his teaching is the most necessary, "one thing" that cannot be taken away.
- **Priority of Devotion:** The passage highlights that, while service is important, devotion and listening to Jesus take precedence.
- **Mary's Choice:** Mary choosing to sit at Jesus' feet represents a disciple's posture, prioritizing spiritual nourishment over busyness.

The story here serves as a reminder to balance active service with quiet devotion, prioritizing a relationship with Jesus over undue anxiety about daily tasks.

Understand that Jesus traveled on foot with about 70 people, not unusual for rabbis to do in His time. 70 people, think about that, showing up for dinner. We can begin to understand Martha's anxiety, however, Jesus would have us understand that Martha held that her entertainment in this story was more important to her than God's Mission.

There are about 150 named women in the Bible. Let's look at two. First, in Joshua we meet Rahab. Later, in Luke, we'll greet Mary Magdalene.



INSIGHT: Rahab was indeed a Canaanite prostitute in Jericho who risked her life to hide two Israelite spies sent by Joshua. Believing in the power of the Israelite God, she secured a promise of safety for her family, signaled by a scarlet cord in her window. When Jericho fell, Rahab and her family were spared, eventually becoming part of Israel and the ancestry of Jesus.

Key Aspects of the Story (Joshua 2 and 6):

• **The Act of Faith:** Despite being a foreigner in a condemned city, Rahab acknowledged the Lord as God of heaven and earth due to reports of his miracles, such as parting the Red Sea.

• **Saving the Spies:** When the King of Jericho sought the spies, Rahab hid them on her roof under flax stalks and misled the king's men, sending them on a false pursuit.

- **The Covenant:** Rahab negotiated a deal: in exchange for protecting the spies, she and her family would be spared during the invasion.
- **The Scarlet Cord:** The spies instructed her to hang a scarlet cord from her window to identify her home, a signal that saved her family when the walls of Jericho fell.

- **Her Legacy:** Rahab is noted in the New Testament as a model of faith (Hebrews 11:31) and works (James 2:25). She married an Israelite, became the mother of Boaz, and was the great-great-grandmother of King David, placing her in the genealogy of Jesus.

The story highlights themes of redemption, as God used a person considered an outcast to fulfill His plans, showing that faith can override a broken past. Rahab had three strikes against her: She was an idolater, not a Jew. She was a woman. She was a harlot. Everything seemed to be against her, yet consider her powerful LEGACY she was able to leave her family! Consider what God can do! Nothing is impossible for God!

Hebrews 11:31 NIV

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

YOUR PAST DOES NOT DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE! YOUR CHOICES DO!

What determines your future? The redeeming blood of Jesus. The overcoming power of Jesus. The saving strength of Jesus. You see, when all was said and done, Rahab's name was forever carved on the FAMILY TREE OF JESUS: Boaz, Jesse, David, Jesus Christ.

Referencing the Lazarus story, Cheryl said, ***Jesus moves stones, heavy ones, so He can bring what has been buried back to life.***

*Women followed Christ to get a front row seat to His teachings! Let's look now at **MARY MAGDALENE**. Nowhere in the Bible does it say she was a prostitute. Rather, she was demon-possessed. She is mentioned in all four Gospels. Remember this from the Gospel of John?*

John 20:13-14 NIV

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." [14] At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

John 20:13-16 AMP

And they said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." [14] After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. [15] Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? For whom are you looking?" Supposing that He was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you are the one who has carried Him away from here, tell me where you have put Him, and I will take Him away." [16] Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

*Mary Magdalene exhibits a combination of emotions: crushing sorrow, shocked in surprise, overwhelmed in joy. She is a central character. Jesus gives to her absolutely **the most significant announcement she will ever make**, that He is risen! Jesus chooses Mary Magdalene not by accident. Then, Cheryl sweetly quoted a few important lyrics which perfectly tied into this story. Here's a portion of I'VE JUST SEEN JESUS.*



I've just seen Jesus
I tell you he's alive
I've just seen Jesus
Our precious Lord alive
And I knew, he really saw me too
As if till now, I'd never lived
All that I'd done before
Won't matter anymore
I've just seen Jesus
And I'll never be the same again

**WHEN JESUS SPEAKS YOUR NAME,
YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!**

The Lord indeed moves in powerful and unexpected ways. George's parents, Clarence and Irene Cope, pastored together for 36 years in Sri Lanka, current population 23,103,565. They established 122 churches in



Sri Lanka, not an easy place to do mission work, while they faithfully and persistently taught the Bible, winning souls to Christ.

*Two years ago, George and his sister taught there, meeting with 100 pastors and their families (Clarence's & Irene's legacy). The churches there are going strong! We discovered that George's parents had paid the way to school for many of the pastors. One of the pastors, Michael, tells his story which, of course, takes place in Sri Lanka, a place which is heavily Buddhist. Michael was told it was O.K. for him to build his church, only without any windows at all! The government said: **If we hear you preach, we will kill you!** You don't really know someone until they tell you their story!*

George and I traveled to Sri Lanka once to head up a Youth Crusade in his father's ministry. The trip was demanding, 10 nights in a row teaching. No electricity, except for a generator and hot spotlights to see anything at night. The women sang, joyous in the Lord. George preached. Someone outside the congregation had threatened: I'm gonna burn this church down! And what he had threatened, unfortunately, came to pass. Two months later, however, due to the sustained and faith-filled joy of the congregation, he who had burned the church down, repented, and five months later asked to become a pastor himself!

When he asked, he was told: *You do need education.*

But, I have no money! he replied.

I've heard your story. My wife Irene and I will pay your expenses at the Columbo Bible School. said George's parents. Think LEGACY here.

LEGACY. That's what it's all about! God weaves our stories together! You, of course, did not choose what your legacy would be. But you can choose what legacy you will leave!

LEGACY. YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT IF YOU DON'T LIVE IT!

Cheryl began to pray: *May all who come behind us find us faithful, Lord. We ask for a transfer of faith to the next generation...* And with this, Pastor Paul stepped forward.

What an important word we have heard today! Cheryl, it's great to have you here with us today. LEGACY. We remember folks like Pam Carlisle and so many others. LEGACY. Speak blessing, your legacy, over your family. Walk in this blessing. Lord, we receive what You have for us...Give the Lord your praise for His presence. Go in the power and peace of God.

Verse 1

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon
you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus 1

Amen
Amen
Amen

Misc 1

(Bridge)

May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children

Misc 2

(Bridge)

May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you

Misc 3

(Bridge)

In the morning
In the evening

In your
coming
And your
going
In your
weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you

He is for you
He is for you

