

## A Mother's Love

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Unedited notes



*True Father: "In my childhood, I would often look at bird nests. Once I climbed a tree to look into a nest, and the mother bird started pecking at me. She was desperate and willing to die to protect her nest, and not only once. When I brushed her aside, she flew away, and then came back. Seeing this, we cannot deny the powerful instinct of animals to transcend their own lives to protect their offspring. It is similar with human beings. You should be able to invest your life for the sake of love. That is the way of a true person." 1.14.89*

Today is Mother's Day, a day we all are called to honor our moms. And even if your mother is no longer living, you can honor her memory. My mom is in spirit world and I'm grateful for all she did for me -- when I was growing up.

When Pastor Nelson [Mira] asked me to give sermon -- I started thinking of all the excuses I had -- but when I realized it was on Mother's Day I perked up.

You see -- I've been studying Mitsue for over 30 years and have had the honor of seeing the marvels of motherhood emerge within her.

I've witnessed how much her heart has grown from the time I placed little newborn Kevin into her loving arms in the hospital.

It always amazed me how she had the ability to wake up in the middle of the night when the baby woke even before he began to cry and go feed him.

I would spy on her as she folded the laundry and watched a smile come across her tired face as she folded those tiny little socks and tiny little shirts and dresses.

I remember when we just had 2 kids.

Diane Araki asked Mitsue to go with her to a Montessori introduction.

When she came back was so excited about learning a new kind of way of educating the children to make them into super kids.

They both opted to go to the training. Always she was studying and reading --

Trying to learn how to be the best mom she could be while doing all her other work.

Consider the hats a mother wears:

A Mother is a teacher, chef; dietician; philosopher; cosmologist; mathematician; lawyer; judge, disciplinarian, teacher of manners, temperance, and modesty; life coach; personal manager; home organizer; Mothers are nurses and doctors and psychologists and counselors and chauffeurs and coaches, referee, cleaning lady, and an example of faithfulness and respect to her husband.

Mothers are developers of personalities -- molders of vocabularies -- shapers of attitudes. Mothers are soft voices saying, "I love you."

Mothers are a link to God -- a child's first impression of God's love.

In short, a mother is a shaper of souls whether by birth or adoption for all time and for eternity.

Mothers are all of these things and much, much more.

Erma Bombeck tells a story of how God created mothers.

She says that on the day God created mothers He had already worked long overtime.

And an angel said to Him, "Lord, you sure are spending a lot of time on this one."

The Lord turned and said, "Have you read the specs on this model?"

She is to be able to function on black coffee and leftovers.

And she is supposed to have six pairs of hands."

"Six pairs of hands," said the angel, "that's impossible."

"It's not the hands that bother me." said the Lord, "It's the three pairs of eyes.

She is supposed to have one pair that sees through closed doors so that whenever she says, 'What are you kids doing in there?' she already knows what they're doing in there."

"She has another pair in the back of her head to see all the things she is not supposed to see but must see.

And then she has one pair right in front that can look straight at a child that just goofed and communicate love and understanding without saying a word."

"That's too much." said the angel,

"You can't put that much in one model. Why don't you rest and resume your creating tomorrow?"

"No, I can't," said the Lord. "I'm already close to creating someone very much like myself.

I've come up with a model who can heal herself when she is sick - who can feed a family of six with one pound of hamburger -- and who can persuade a nine year old to take a shower."

Then the angel looked at the model of motherhood a little more closely and said, "She's too soft."

"Oh, but she is tough," said the Lord. "You'd be surprised at how much this mother can do."

"Can she think?" asked the angel.

"Not only can she think," said the Lord, "but she can reason and compromise and persuade."

Then the angel reached over and touched her cheek. "This one has a leak," he said.

"I told you that you couldn't put that much in one model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord. "That's a tear."

"What's a tear for?" asked the angel.

"Well it's for joy, for sadness, for sorrow, for disappointment, for pride."

"You're a genius," said the angel.

And the Lord said, "Oh, but I didn't put it there."

Remember in the story I just read God said,

"I'm already close to creating someone very much like myself."

Parents -- And especially Mothers -- are "God-like". They are a child's 1st glimpse of selfless unconditional love.

*True Father: "Parents want to sacrifice everything for the sake of their own children. This is like God. What does this mean? God does not invest Himself for His own sake. Likewise parents want to live for the sake of others rather than for their own sake; they want to stand in the position of God, who lives for the sake of others. If God were to say that He only exists for Himself, this would not be true love. Love, life, and hope are realized when parents sacrifice themselves completely for the sake of their children and are bound together with them." 9.10.73*

My mother had Parkinson's for about 10 years. My siblings and I knew that she loved her home and wanted to stay there so we arranged for that.

Eventually we provided 24 hour care for her -- but towards the end they were no longer able to care for her at home and she had to go to a nursing home. I hadn't seen her in a year so I immediately flew back to Ill.

When I got to the nursing home mom was totally comatose. She didn't respond to anything I said or even to my being there. She just stared straight ahead. I went back home after a few days.

Then -- after I got back I thought about how people -- when they are undergoing an operation and under anesthesia -- wake up and are able to tell the doctors and nurses things that happened during surgery -- things they said or stories that one of them told during the operation -- And I thought -- What if mom can hear us, but just can't respond. What if she's just trapped inside her crippled body and can't respond to us.

I knew my sister was going to the nursing home the next day -- so I called her and shared that with her. I asked her to call me when she was in the nursing home the next day will mom.

The next day she called me and I told her to tell mom that David was on the phone and I wanted to speak to her. I told her -

Mom you've been a great mother. It wasn't easy raising 2 teenage boys on your own -- but you did a good job -- And now we're ok -- we're married and got kids of our own and we're happy. Thank you -- You've done everything you were supposed to do and now you can go -- You've finished your job and we're going to be alright.

45 minutes later my mom passed into spirit world. Moms live for the sake of their children and even at the end of their lives -- even when their bodies are failing -- they don't want to leave until they know that their children are safe and happy and are going to be ok. All moms are like that. They need to know that their kids are ok.

Here is a story told -- out of World War II and the holocaust -- that took the lives of millions of people. This story is of Solomon Rosenberg and his family. It is a true story.

Solomon Rosenberg and his wife and their 2 sons and his mother and father were arrested and placed in a Nazi concentration camp. It was a labor camp, and the rules were simple.

As long as you can do your work, you are permitted to live. When you become too weak to do your work, then you are exterminated.

Rosenberg watched his mother and father marched off to their deaths, and he knew that next would be his youngest son, David, because David had always been a frail child.

Every evening Rosenberg came back into the barracks after his hours of labor and searched for the faces of his family.

When he found them they would huddle together, embrace one another, and thank God for another day. One day Rosenberg came back and didn't see those familiar faces. He finally discovered his oldest son,

Joshua, in a corner, huddled, weeping, and praying. He said, "Josh, tell me it's not true."

Joshua turned and said, "It is true, poppa. Today David was not strong enough to do his work. So they came for him."

"But where is your mother?" asked Mr. Rosenberg. "Oh poppa," he said, "When they came for David, he was afraid and he cried. Momma said, 'There is nothing to be afraid of, David,' and she took his hand and went with him."

That's the heart of a mother. To want to comfort and protect her child.

She doesn't consider the costs -- Only the well-being of her child.

When Kenny was less than a year old he became ill and we took him to the hospital where they did surgery to clear his intestines. I remember when we came to see him in the recovery room. After he woke up he was trying to reach out to mom for food and started crying.

Mitsue knew he was hungry -- but he wasn't allowed to eat anything. Mitsue felt so bad that she started to cry -- because her baby was hungry and there wasn't anything she could do about it.

*True Father: "Parents go through many difficulties for the sake of their children, but do not feel the hardship. Why? It is because they love them. After giving their flesh and blood, do parents keep a record? No. Rather, they are pained at not being able to give more. The same is true for the mothers here isn't it? When you breast feed your babies and they don't feed well, you feel worried. Isn't it true that your babies take away your flesh and blood? In a sense, aren't they the greatest of all thieves? Yet still mothers feel anxious when their babies do not feed properly. Why do parents love their children so much? It is because this is the law of love." 1.16.71*

I think at that moment -- Mitsue would have done anything to feed little Kenny. She would have gladly carved a pound of flesh from her own body if it would have filled Kenny's empty stomach

Now -- Is Mitsue a brave person? How many 2nd gen think Aunt Mitsue is a brave lady?

You're wrong -- Last week I went zip lining and I tried to get her to come along, but she was a little chicken. Aunt Mitsue is not brave at all -- but when it comes to her children she's like a mother bear -- protecting them -- willing to give her life in a heartbeat.

*True Father: "If a son commits a crime and is sent to prison, the parents tearfully forgive and reach out to him, instead of saying, 'Serves him right!' This is why parental love is extraordinary. Similarly if a son is sentenced to execution, his mother will be totally grief-stricken and seek any way, even changing the world's legal system or risking her life, to save her son." 2.6.77*

*"Parents give and yet feel that it is not enough; they love and yet feel as if there is some love they have not yet given and want to give more; and even after giving, they still feel unsatisfied with what they were able to give their children. This essence of parental love is what connects us to eternal love." 8.6.72*

I was driving past the Stafford Creek Prison yesterday. Saturday is visiting day -- Visitors are required to park outside of the prison along the highway while they wait to get in.

I saw the longest line of cars waiting for visiting time than I've ever seen there before. When I looked inside the cars -- they were all women -- mothers waiting to see their children who were in prison.

When I was young -- my older brother smoked marijuana and he admitted it to my mom.

Do you know what my mom's reaction was? -- Denial -- She refused to believe him.

All mothers are the same -- they don't want to believe that their children have done wrong.

Mothers will want to make excuses and to take the blame and the punishment upon themselves.

As children -- we need to know that our mothers want us to delay short term gratification for long term happiness -- They want our eternal happiness, because that is the nature of love. And when we do make mistakes -- it hurts them very much.

When a teenager does something bad and the mother realizes what their child has done, The mother feels like she hasn't done enough.

The mother feels bad -- she believes that the reason her child did wrong was because of her -- because

somehow she was not able to love that child enough or to be enough for her child.

When we do make mistakes -- we need to know that there's always at least one person who loves us -- who is ready to believe in us --

Mothers believe in their children -- no matter how many times they are betrayed

They still continue to believe in their children.

They feel, "I'm going to trust him this time -- What if he is telling the truth this time".

That's the heart of a mother.

When is a mother's heart formed? -

This heart that is so willing to sacrifice itself for her children?

*True Father: "(From) the moment their baby's umbilical cord is cut, a loving heart will naturally arise in them. Every life form, whether on a higher or lower level, is created in such a way that it cannot but love its young. Thus since the act of loving their children inspires parents to invest and use their lives as stepping stone, it is clear that parental love brings us closest to an eternal unchanging standard." 9.12.71*

God wanted to bequeath his standard of unconditional love to his children

and to pass this down from generation -- to generation -- to generation -- for all time.

*True Father "If we analyze the essence of love, there is no need to revolutionize love. When parents love their children, this is part of true love. This is why the heart with which people loved their children from the time of the first ancestors is the same heart with which we descendants several millennia later love our own children. Moreover, the heart with which our descendants several millennia latter will love their children will also be the same. True love is something pure that does not need to be revolutionized." 5.14.67*

The mode through which God passes down His self-sacrificing -- unconditional love to His children is through -- none other -- than our moms

I suppose that is why today is very special -- because we recognize that mother's love is the closest example we have to God's love.

It is a love that goes through the valley of the shadow of death to bring life into being.

It is a love that sacrifices itself over and over again and would even dare to lay down its life for her children.

We live in an upside down world. Our world tells women, "Motherhood is a hindrance.

Kids are a drag. They'll hold you back.

If you want to do something important with your life and if you want nice stuff, you have to cut those screaming little tyrants out of your life and focus on your profession - on your future -- on your financial security."

We need to hear truth: children are not an interruption of a woman's or a man's lifework;

They are a woman's or a man's lifework. Children are what transform a woman into a mother.

Children are the magical force that are able to transform a scared little chicken into a mama bear.

*True Father: "Parental love is the highest. Those who have been raised with the empowerment of true parental love become well rounded people and understand the dynamics of love. The family is the school of love. The children will never forget their parent's love. The full experience of parental love is impossible without parents." 9.10.72*

I'm not saying you shouldn't get an education

I'm not saying women shouldn't work outside the home --

I am saying the greatest job isn't found somewhere out there in the corporate world.

it's found in the hungry eyes of an infant.

The inquisitive stare of a child.

The hopeful gaze of a youth.

The confident stride of a teenager.

And the independence of a young man or woman stepping beyond the bounds of home for the very first time.

Motherhood matters more than any other job out there.

The Most Important Person on earth is a mother: She cannot claim the honor of having invented the wheel or the light bulb. She doesn't need to.

She has created something more magnificent than De Vinci or Michael Angelo –

She has created the dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body.

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace.

Men have not been endowed with this ability.

Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature

God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation....

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?