

Mother's Day Message - May 11, 2008  
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A Joyful Mother of Children. Psalm 113:9

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I have a friend who at age 39 gave birth to her 24th child! Now, she did not give birth to all of them, 14 were adopted. But I want you to know, that she was just as excited to hear about #24 as she was #1! She's the first one to come to mind when I think about the title of today's message - *A Joyful Mother of Children*, taken from Psalm 113: 9. Look at it with me...

Upon reading this passage, the quest I had was - *Just what is a joyful mother of children like?*

I'm sure we could come up with a number of answers to that question, but there are 3 right here in our passage that I want to draw your attention to this morning.

**First, She Recognizes God as *the Source* of Her Children**

I really do believe in our present society much of the joy has been taken out of motherhood yap of the *absence* of this conviction.

If we believe that children are merely the result of unprotected sex, an accident, or no more than a natural reproductive function, then it doesn't make our kids very special does it? And if they are just something that happens, then we might not feel all that responsible for them either.

I've heard this phrase again and again, "*It's my body, and I can do with it what I want.*" And of course, they are not just talking about their body; they are also talking about the growing child with in their womb. And because they fail to recognize God as the source of all life, they refuse to take responsibility and often choose to terminate the child's life.

Whenever you and I fail to see God as the source of life, it devalues *all of life!* Especially that of children, and it robs, not only individuals, but a whole society of *the joy* of motherhood.

The scriptures however, provide us with a whole different understanding of life. It is **God alone** who creates and makes life possible. We see this even at the very beginning of creation.

Genesis 2: 7 tells us, "*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***" **It takes the breath of God to make a living soul!**

One of my favorite passages has been Psalm 139: 13-16...

Again, it is **God** who is intimately and intricately involved with every detail of our life. And because He is, **joy** is the result! This is especially illustrated in the statement of our passage...

God is the one who makes the difference for the barren. Throughout the culture of scripture, to be barren was considered a curse and shame. But, because **God** is the source of life, He can make a difference even for the barren, and turn their sorrow into rejoicing. We have some wonderful examples of this in the Bible.

One of the clearest is Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who was barren. She and Abraham tried to take matters into their own hands...

Ishmael was the result.

God waited until she was 90 years old. Well past the age of childbearing. Well past what we would think possible, I believe to make clear **He** was the source of life. When the Angel of the Lord came and told them she would be with child, they both laughed. Sarah asked, "*After I have grown old shall I have pleasure?*" And the answer of the angel is extremely important, "*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*"

God **is** Big Enough!

It's interesting that in Psalm 113, the whole point of this statement is to illustrate that just as God can make the barren rejoice, yap He is the source of life; He can do the same thing for each one of us. He's Big Enough to handle our problems. And Big Enough to turn our sorrows into joy! The things you and I are incapable of changing, He is! That's what He did for Sarah in Genesis 21. Well beyond the age of childbearing she gave birth to a son. So when her son was born, she called him, Isaac, meaning - *God has made me laugh!*

The woman who recognizes God as the source of her child or children will be a joyful mother.

We also find in our passage that  
**A Joyful Mother Believes Children Are a Joy to Have**

That is just the opposite of how many think today. How are children viewed? Very often as an interruption, an intrusion, a distraction, a hindrance, or too much trouble, and the list seems to go on and on!

Around the world, 150,685 children are aborted **every** day. That's 105 a minute! Why? For the very reasons we just mentioned. When we don't understand that children are a joy to have, we abort them, we abuse them, and we neglect them.

When that happens, not only are individuals, but our whole society robbed of their joy. However, children are a joy to have. Think of Elizabeth in the New Testament, the mother of John the Baptist, in Luke 1. She too was barren and past the age of child bearing. The angel Gabriel came and announced in verse 14, "*You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*"

Look with me at Luke 1:57-58...

Zachariah, the dad, began to sing out... (See verses 68-69)

He said a mouth full, didn't he! He was full of the joy of the Lord at the birth of their son.

When my 3 children were born, I didn't sing out like that. The hospital probably would have given me a sedative. But my heart was full of joy, and it still is over them and our grandchildren, because children are a joy to have!

There is a message in this for **all of us**, not just the mothers.

Look at John 16:16-24...

Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure, and did you notice the illustration? How the pain of childbirth gives way to joy! The point of His illustration is that children are a joy to have, they're worth the pain!

And the application Jesus was making is that just as God takes the pain of childbirth and turns it into joy; He will take **our** sorrows, **our** pains, and give us a settled and lasting joy.

I also want you to notice in Psalm 113:9

### **A Joyful Mother Expresses *Praise* to God for Her Children**

Now, she does this because, first, she recognizes God as the source of her children, and second, believes children are a joy to have. Obviously, if we don't recognize God as the source and believe children are a joy, then we will not be grateful to God for them. We'll fail to see they are a gift, and we'll fail to see they are precious.

When I think of a joyful mother, I think of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1, the mother of Samuel, who was barren. But upon receiving that precious gift, she gave thanks, and in turn, gave Samuel back to the Lord.

I also think of the mothers who brought their children to Jesus in Mark 10:13-16. They were grateful to Him for them, and wanted His continued blessing in their lives. And when Jesus picked them up, placed His hands upon them, and blessed them, don't you think the joy of those mothers was increased even more?

A joyful mother will not only say she is grateful to God, but will show her gratitude by bringing her children to Him. And I don't think you will find a happier mother than one like Eunice in 1 Timothy 1, the mother of Timothy, who saw him grow up, give his life to the Lord, and go out to serve Him.

In James 1, it reminds us that every good gift comes from God. That includes our children, and God deserves our praise for each of them.

A grateful heart is a joyful heart. That's why it says in Philippians 4:4, "*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!*"

I hope each of you here today, who are mothers, know the joy that we've been talking about. A joy that starts and ends with God!

This is a joy that each of us can know and have. It starts with faith in Jesus Christ. He is the one who saves us, and gives us a whole different perspective on life in general and the life of our children in particular.

If you have never...

If you have...

Let's pray...