

Family Information

Today's Sermon Title

A Tale of 3 Mothers

Theme Passage

Exodus 2 & 3

Thoughts to Consider

- 1) What are special motherly qualities?
- 2) How does parenting change in difficult situations?

Camp

Fort Hill Church Camp Registration - A \$20 discount is offered if you register and pay by May 15th. Camp Week is July 14-20, Let Josh Evans know if you are interested in attending.

VBS theme- My God is so big

Graduation Party

You are invited to come celebrate Abby Coate graduating from high school. Open house Friday, May 31st from 6-9 PM. 447 Quince Ct. Westerville, 43081

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ted Szajna saw his doctor last week and hopefully he will be able to put more weight on his foot. Please pray for continued progress.

Steve Carver requests prayers for a friend, Jerry Waits. He is in ICU at Riverside. He is requesting prayers for his relationship with Christ, that his heart will be softened and responsive to Jesus; then for a sense of encouragement for him, his wife Rita and the rest of the family; and finally for the wisdom and skills of the doctors working with him and for his complete recovery.

Calendar

May

12	Mothers Day
12	Single Sisters Lunch
17	Teen Game Night
17	TGIF
27	Memorial Day
29	Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30am

For The Month of May

Invitation/ Responses: Jim Robbins

Foyer Duty: Josh Evans

Greeters: Art and Kythrie Silva

Announcements: Art Silva

Communion Servers

Jake Bowman	Jack Evans
Josh Evans	Michael Evans
Mike Evans	Bobby Graham Jr.
William Nixon	Paul Silva

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$16,149	\$5620
Designated:	\$110	\$180

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger

Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos



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A Mother After God's Own Heart

What does Mother's Day mean to me? This is an interesting question, and the answer for me has changed as I've gone through different stages of life.

As I've gotten older, I have realized as I've looked at my life how many wonderful motherly examples God has given to me. My own mother and I have not always had a great relationship, but as I've gotten older we have worked to better this together. I am also blessed to still have 2 wonderful grandmothers, and even a spunky great-grandmother who have set amazing, godly examples for me in my life. Now, I have a delightful mother-in-law to learn from as well. God has blessed me one-hundred fold with each of these women, and I now appreciate Mother's Day more than I did as a child.

But aside from appreciating these motherly women in my life, Mother's Day is taking on new meaning for me this year. As we are anxiously expecting our first child, I am really starting to reflect on what being a mother means and who I want to be as a mother. Also, as I prepare to become a mother, I love to look at examples from God's word of motherly figures. We have examples of mothers all throughout the Bible, starting in Genesis. Genesis 3:20 tells us, "Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living." Following this, we see examples of godly mothers with Sarah, Naomi, Hannah, Elizabeth, many others, and of course Mary, the very mother of Jesus.

Society has always pegged mothers as the more nurturing half of the parental unit, and there are definitely grounds for that. When you fall, scrape your knee on the pavement, and start to cry, dad might lovingly tell you, "Ah, you're a big boy! Get up and shake it off!" but mom might run towards you, scooping you up, ready to slather you in Neosporin and give you a Popsicle. And both of these are fine responses! But there is just something special about mom's gentle touch and care.

These characteristics of a mother are no accident. God created both man AND woman in His image, including some of His very own traits in our design. We see the nurturing, "motherly" nature of God in many places in Scripture, but one that stands out to me is Luke 15. Luke 15, starting in verse 11, describes Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son. It describes the very moment that God opens up His arms to receive us and love us, even when we've done everything wrong. While this certainly doesn't compare to falling and scraping a knee, those same nurturing characteristics come into play in both scenarios.

God shows us a perfect, complete picture of what it means to be a parent. My prayer is that I can become a mother after God's own heart and that I can show my son who God is through my love, care, and tenderness.

Proverbs 31:28 "Her children rise up and bless her; her husband does also, and he praises her...."

- Micah Evans

Because He Loved Us

Goodness above all goodness! You alone are supremely good, and nevertheless you gave the Word, your only-begotten Son, to associate with us filthy ones who are filled with darkness. What was the cause of this? Love. Because you loved us before we were.

Eternal greatness! You made yourself low and small to make mankind great. On whichever side I turn I find nothing but the abyss and fire of your love. And can a wretch like me pay back to you the graces and the burning love that you have shown and continue to show in particular to me, and the love that you show to all your creatures? No, but you alone, most sweet and loving Father, will be thankful and grateful for me – that is, that the affection of your charity itself will render you thanks. My being, and every further grace that you have bestowed upon me, I have from you. And you give them to me through love, and not as my due.

Sweetest Father, when the human race lay sick through the sin of Adam, you sent it a physician, the sweet and loving Word – your Son. And when I was lying infirm with the sickness of negligence and much ignorance, you, most soothing and sweet physician, eternal God, gave a soothing, sweet, and bitter medicine, that I may be cured and rise from my infirmity. You soothed me because with your love and gentleness you manifested yourself to me, sweet above all sweetness. You illuminated the eye of my intellect with the light of most holy faith.

- Catherine of Siena
(1347-1380)



All This Comes From The Lord

(With More About Ducks & Geese)

Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? . . . When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? . . . His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. - Isaiah 28:23-26

As farmers learn to plow in season, to sow in season, and to reap in season, God also instructs us each step as we face the world's confusion and loudness; he teaches us every day what is right and what is good and what is real and what is lasting and what is important. In this world, circumstances change constantly, yet God's compassion and his understanding never change.

Like us, ducklings face a new world full of hopes and dangers, full of joys and disappointments. As soon as ducklings are born, they recognize the low-pitched voice of their mother; and until grown they rely on that voice for encouragement, warning, and guidance. They follow their parents everywhere, though from time to time they become distracted and wander off.

When this happens, their parents will let them do some exploring for a while; yet when they have spread out too far or if danger is in sight, with one 'quack' from their mother all of the ducklings will scurry back at once. Like the mother duck, our Father in heaven is a voice we can trust; he speaks gently to us, so he simply asks us to listen to him as he shows us the next step on his path.

Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is the wheel of a cart rolled over cumin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cumin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. - Isaiah 28:27-28

At harvest time, grain must also be threshed and ground in turn, and this is done patiently and carefully, so that the grain isn't ruined. In the same way, God is patient and loving with us as he teaches us and nurtures us. When we stumble, *a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (Isaiah 42:3).*

Young geese are often eager to fly, so sometimes they won't wait for their parents and take off before they've learned about winds and air currents, which can put them in danger. So their father or mother will quickly take flight and move ahead of them to protect and guide them. It is also difficult to teach young geese to land into the wind, to use it as a 'brake', instead of landing with the wind at their backs (which can make them tumble forward and could cause injuries).

When geese fly majestically or come in for a flawless landing, this took a lot of patience and care from their parents. Likewise, everything we have learned and everything we have and everything worthwhile we can do, all this comes from our Father in heaven -

All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent. - Isaiah 28:29

Indeed, God's designs are wonderful, his wisdom is far deeper than human minds can begin to imagine, and the purposes of his heart will endure forever.

- Mark Garner