

A Mother's Day Sermon

May 9, 2021

Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church Pastor Dr. Eric Peterson

A blessed Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, and to all the women in our congregation this morning. We thank God for you and for all the blessings God has given us through you.

A mother's love is powerful. One of the greatest examples of a mother's love in the Bible is Mary's love for her son, Jesus. Mary's love for Jesus was unshakable. When Jesus was forsaken by all the religious leaders, abandoned by His disciples, and crowds cried out for Him to be crucified, His mother did not leave His side. Mary was there at the foot of the cross, supporting Jesus to the very end.

Do you remember when Jesus was brought as an infant to the temple to be dedicated to God? The prophet Simeon said, ***"Jesus would be the reason for the falling and rising of many in Israel and he would be a sign that would be spoken against."*** He also said, ***"a sword would pierce Mary's heart."*** And it did. Imagine seeing your son, mocked, cursed, stripped naked, beaten, and then nailed to a cross to die. In Jesus' worst hour...Mary was there, supporting Him. Can there be any greater example of a mother's love than her love for Jesus? But as great as Mary's love was for her son, there was a greater love revealed on the cross. Jesus said, ***"there is no greater love than to give your life for a friend."*** Then He said, ***"You are my friends."*** The very act which broke Mary's heart and brought her to tears was the act that revealed the enormity of God's love for us. When our lives were battered by our sins, when we failed to keep God's law and deserved only God's rejection...God never quit loving us. As St. Paul wrote, ***"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."***

Did you even have a teacher who really cared about their class and he or she drilled into the class the key points that were necessary to

pass the final exam? The night before Jesus was crucified, He exhorted His disciples to remain in Him, to remain in His word, and to remain in His love. He used the word “remain” ten times. Jesus was priming the disciples for more than a confirmation exam. He was sharing with them a basic essential truth to deal with life. Jesus knew the disciples would be devastated by His suffering and His death. He knew that their lives were going to change and when they were faced with His death, He wanted to give them the comfort and strength they needed. So He exhorted them, Hold onto me. Hold onto what I taught you, that I will die but rise again...the victory over death is won. Hold on to My love for you. If the disciples remained in Him nothing could separate them from the blessings of God. It was powerful.

Life is not easy. When we experience the death of a loved one, don't we look for comfort? Or when our lives are thrown upside down by illness, don't we try to grasp hold of some assurance that we will be all right? Or when we lose a job, don't we look for some sign that we will be ok? Or when an important relationship in our life is shattered, don't we look for hope? Jesus said, ***“Remain in me, remain in my Word, remain in my love.”*** Maybe you are going through some difficult changes in your own life right now. If you remain in Jesus' love, nothing can separate you from the blessing of God.

Hardships, trials, and suffering push us beyond our own strength or our own cleverness. They push us to look for help. Jesus is that help! When nothing in life is certain, there is one certainty - God's love for us. Jesus encouraged the disciples, just like He encourages each of us this morning to remain in Him, and to remain in His Word, and to remain in His love. He is our anchor in the midst of the storm. The greater the storm the more we begin to realize the depth of the love God has for us. Our most blessed moments are not those of personal achievement and those moments that cause us to trust in ourselves, but those moments that push us into the hands of God.

I love the words of the song, “The Anchor” which was written by our own Phil Kuhn. It was like he described the way I feel right now.

When doubt and anger cause our minds to question the voyage God has put us on sometimes Listen for His voice across the waters, brave the storm...Remember you are mine.

The Anchor – Music and Lyrics by Phil Kuhn

*Storm clouds gather all around
Things once sure are now forever gone
Raging water threatens life's foundations
And it seems the night will never turn to dawn*

*Listen for the One who stills the ocean
When rain and lightning fill your world with fear
Raise your voice in prayer above the thunder
And know these clouds are soon to disappear*

*Winds may howl and seas rage wild against you
But one truth always keeps you standing strong
To know the strength of the anchor,
You need to feel the storm*

*Even when the darkness seems unending
Our light and shelter rests in Him alone*

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Jesus made it clear that love is more than a feeling. Love compels us to act on behalf of others. When you love...you give. Sharing God's love is not an obligation. It is a compulsion of the heart. When Jesus loved His Father, He yielded His life in obedience to do His Father's will and died for our sins on the cross. Jesus put love into action. His heart and His life were connected. The radical nature of love is it moves us to action. This morning as we reflect upon the mission statement of our church. *"to glorify God and make disciples by forming relationships, experiencing Jesus together, and sharing God's love,"* we are invited to put love into action on behalf of each other, our community, our country, and on behalf of all those who are suffering in our world today. As Jesus joined Himself to our suffering, we are invited to care for those around us. Therefore, Jesus said, **"If we love him, we will obey his command."** And His command is this: **"love one another."** We are invited to love God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are invited to connect our heart and our faith to our living God that loves you. Hold onto His love!

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*Winds may howl and seas rage wild against you
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To know the strength of the anchor,
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This morning we remember how important the power of love is in our lives. We remember not only that God loves us, but that each of us is called by God to be a vessel of His love to those around us. You do not have to tell a mother to hold her child when her child is crying. You do not have to tell a mother that it is her duty to care for her family. Her heart compels her. We do not have to beg God to answer our prayers, to be merciful to us when we sin, or to care for us when we are suffering. His love compels Him to act. This is what gives me courage in the challenges I face, and I hope it gives you courage in your own life.

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A Mother's Day Sermon

May 9, 2021

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Life is not easy. When we experience the death of a loved one, don't we look for comfort? Or when our lives are thrown upside down by illness, don't we try to grasp hold of some assurance that we will be all right? Or when we lose a job, don't we look for some sign that we will be ok? Or when an important relationship in our life is shattered, don't we look for hope? Jesus said, ***“Remain in me, remain in my Word, remain in my love.”*** Maybe you are going through some difficult changes in your own life right now. If you remain in Jesus' love, nothing can separate you from the blessing of God.

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Jesus made it clear that love is more than a feeling. Love compels us to act on behalf of others. When you love...you give. Sharing God's love is not an obligation. It is a compulsion of the heart. When Jesus loved His Father, He yielded His life in obedience to do His Father's will and died for our sins on the cross. Jesus put love into action. His heart and His life were connected. The radical nature of love is it moves us to action. This morning as we reflect upon the mission statement of our church. *"to glorify God and make disciples by forming relationships, experiencing Jesus together, and sharing God's love,"* we are invited to put love into action on behalf of each other, our community, our country, and on behalf of all those who are suffering in our world today. As Jesus joined Himself to our suffering, we are invited to care for those around us. Therefore, Jesus said, **"If we love him, we will obey his command."** And His command is this: **"love one another."** We are invited to love God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are invited to connect our heart and our faith to our living God that loves you. Hold onto His love!

A Mother's Day Sermon

May 9, 2021

Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church Pastor Dr. Eric Peterson

A blessed Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, and to all the women in our congregation this morning. We thank God for you and for all the blessings God has given us through you.

A mother's love is powerful. One of the greatest examples of a mother's love in the Bible is Mary's love for her son, Jesus. Mary's love for Jesus was unshakable. When Jesus was forsaken by all the religious leaders, abandoned by His disciples, and crowds cried out for Him to be crucified, His mother did not leave His side. Mary was there at the foot of the cross, supporting Jesus to the very end.

Do you remember when Jesus was brought as an infant to the temple to be dedicated to God? The prophet Simeon said, ***"Jesus would be the reason for the falling and rising of many in Israel and he would be a sign that would be spoken against."*** He also said, ***"a sword would pierce Mary's heart."*** And it did. Imagine seeing your son, mocked, cursed, stripped naked, beaten, and then nailed to a cross to die. In Jesus' worst hour...Mary was there, supporting Him. Can there be any greater example of a mother's love than her love for Jesus? But as great as Mary's love was for her son, there was a greater love revealed on the cross. Jesus said, ***"there is no greater love than to give your life for a friend."*** Then He said, ***"You are my friends."*** The very act which broke Mary's heart and brought her to tears was the act that revealed the enormity of God's love for us. When our lives were battered by our sins, when we failed to keep God's law and deserved only God's rejection...God never quit loving us. As St. Paul wrote, ***"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."***

Did you even have a teacher who really cared about their class and he or she drilled into the class the key points that were necessary to

pass the final exam? The night before Jesus was crucified, He exhorted His disciples to remain in Him, to remain in His word, and to remain in His love. He used the word “remain” ten times. Jesus was priming the disciples for more than a confirmation exam. He was sharing with them a basic essential truth to deal with life. Jesus knew the disciples would be devastated by His suffering and His death. He knew that their lives were going to change and when they were faced with His death, He wanted to give them the comfort and strength they needed. So He exhorted them, Hold onto me. Hold onto what I taught you, that I will die but rise again...the victory over death is won. Hold on to My love for you. If the disciples remained in Him nothing could separate them from the blessings of God. It was powerful.

Life is not easy. When we experience the death of a loved one, don't we look for comfort? Or when our lives are thrown upside down by illness, don't we try to grasp hold of some assurance that we will be all right? Or when we lose a job, don't we look for some sign that we will be ok? Or when an important relationship in our life is shattered, don't we look for hope? Jesus said, ***“Remain in me, remain in my Word, remain in my love.”*** Maybe you are going through some difficult changes in your own life right now. If you remain in Jesus' love, nothing can separate you from the blessing of God.

Hardships, trials, and suffering push us beyond our own strength or our own cleverness. They push us to look for help. Jesus is that help! When nothing in life is certain, there is one certainty - God's love for us. Jesus encouraged the disciples, just like He encourages each of us this morning to remain in Him, and to remain in His Word, and to remain in His love. He is our anchor in the midst of the storm. The greater the storm the more we begin to realize the depth of the love God has for us. Our most blessed moments are not those of personal achievement and those moments that cause us to trust in ourselves, but those moments that push us into the hands of God.

I love the words of the song, “The Anchor” which was written by our own Phil Kuhn. It was like he described the way I feel right now.

When doubt and anger cause our minds to question the voyage God has put us on sometimes Listen for His voice across the waters, brave the storm...Remember you are mine.

The Anchor – Music and Lyrics by Phil Kuhn

*Storm clouds gather all around
Things once sure are now forever gone
Raging water threatens life's foundations
And it seems the night will never turn to dawn*

*Listen for the One who stills the ocean
When rain and lightning fill your world with fear
Raise your voice in prayer above the thunder
And know these clouds are soon to disappear*

*Winds may howl and seas rage wild against you
But one truth always keeps you standing strong
To know the strength of the anchor,
You need to feel the storm*

*Even when the darkness seems unending
Our light and shelter rests in Him alone*

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