

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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A Mother's Love

How can anyone measure love? For instance, the Bible speaks of the love of Jonathan for David (1 Sam. 18:1), the love of Isaac for Rebekah (Gen. 24:67), but do either of these fully illustrate love? A reading of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 speaks of that which love is characterized by.

Mothers and Love

It is my simple understanding that love can be measured by what it causes the individual to give up, what it causes the individual to endure or give, what it causes the individual to bestow.

King Lemuel spoke of the characteristics of a mother's love when he wrote, "She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. . . . She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Prov. 31:15-28).

There are some words in the English language which normally spell "comfort", words such as "home" and "mother". One of the loveliest illustrations of a mother's love in Scripture is Jochebed, the mother of Moses. What tender love was placed on that child. He was the youngest of the three children, his brother being Aaron and his sister Miriam (Num. 26:59). There can be no doubt she loved all her children but in the natural observances of life the "baby" of the family has a special bond. I am sure that Moses was no different from many other boys, at times getting into mischief, but he was loved.

- a) What did her love for that child cause her to give unconditional acceptance? She knew that in a few swift years she would have to give him back to the Royal family, she knew he would have an education and cultural upbringing that she could never have given him, but that did not diminish her absolute acceptance of him. We read, "she nursed" (Ex. 2:9), that is, she gave of herself to the baby.

What a lesson for today. In a world where girls get pregnant and then not wanting the baby, they use a polite term and call the killing of it "an abortion", and at times they cut the cord so that the baby will not be able to cry with the pain. Where is the love of the mother? The Scriptures inform us that in the last days there will be an absence of "natural affection" (2 Tim. 3:3). Furthermore, God informs us in Romans that such are already those who have turned their backs on God,

therefore, God has given them over to “a reprobate mind” (Rom. 1:28) and His judgment is, they are “worthy of death” (Rom. 1:32).

Children must ever be assured of a love which forgives and will seek to protect them from any and every danger. The words of the old Irish tune are still so very true, “For you'll never miss a mother's love, till she's buried beneath the clay”. The words were by Thomas Peter Keenan (1866–1927) from Castletownroche, County Cork, Ireland. No doubt, having heard of the young men who left Ireland during the potato famine and how the mothers wept, he wrote the following lyrics:

An Irish boy was leaving
Leaving his native home,
Crossing the broad Atlantic,
Once more he wished to roam,
And as he was leaving his mother
Who was standing on the Quay,
She threw her arms around his neck
And this to her did say.

*“A mother's love's a blessing,
No matter where you roam,
Keep her while she's living,
You'll miss her when she's gone;
Love her as in childhood,
Though feeble, old and grey,
For you'll never miss a mother's love
Till she's buried beneath the clay.”*

And as the years go onward,
I'll settle down in life,
And choose a nice young Colleen,
And take her for my wife.
And as the babes grow older
And climb around my knee,
I'll teach them the very same lesson
That my mother taught to me.

One of the greatest examples of a mother's love was illustrated by the sacrifice of a mother after one of China's dreadful earthquakes. The earthquake had subsided when rescuers came to the destroyed house of a young woman. Through the broken pieces of masonry etc., they could see her body kneeling as in the posture of one praying. It was evident the house had collapsed, crashing down on her head and back. Hoping that she was still alive the leader put his hand between the rubble and sadly found her body cold and stiff. She had died. Having left the house to go searching for those who may still be alive, he felt an urge to go back to the house of the young woman. It seemed so very foolish, she was dead! As before, he slipped his hand through the rubble and under the dead body and suddenly gave out a yell, “A child, a child”. Swiftly the team worked and then found a little baby boy, three months old, wrapped in a blanket with flowers. Then they discovered in the blanket a cell phone with a message which read, “If you can survive, you must remember that I love you.” The mother had given her life for her son. That is the love of a mother. Yet, this is a shadow of a greater love, the love of God.

[The Love of God](#)

Considering my suggestion as to how love can be measured, I repeat, by what it causes the individual to give up, what it causes the individual to endure or give, what it causes the individual to bestow. This mother exemplifies them all. She gave up her own safety, she gave her life, and in so doing she gave life to her little child. There is only the love of the Holy Trinity which exceeds every manifestation of human love.

1) What did God give up?

- a) Precious are the words, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). What profound truths God reveals in this verse, especially when an individual considers the attitude of humanity toward God. God's commentary on every human being is:

- i) For all have sinned (committed rebellious actions and attitudes toward God), and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). That is, they are deficient of any vestige of integrity in themselves. When the Lord was here they hated Him for He told them of their condemned condition, their unworthiness of anything from God, their depravity, and reached this zenith when they shouted “crucify,” (Lk. 23:21) and had Him hung on a cross to die.

However, I want to consider another aspect of God’s love and what it offers.

1) The Love of God offers:

a) Unconditional acceptance to the whosoever.

- i) It is a natural trait of humanity to desire to be acceptable to others. The young fellow desires to be accepted by the young lady and both would seek to make themselves as desirable as possible. However, the love of God is vastly different from human acceptability, for as He assesses the character of all humanity He reveals just how unacceptable they are for they want no part of God or His salvation. Humanity wants to live life taking God’s name in blasphemy, living life as they want and as one said as life drew to an end, “I have lived life to the full.” That is their assessment but they forget or ignore God’s assessment which is, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:10-18). Yet, to this individual who had no time for God, Christ or salvation, God held out His love in offering her and all humanity unconditional acceptance.

b) Unconditional forgiveness no matter how deep dyed in sin one is, nor how long the individual has lived in the bondage of sin.

- i) One of the hardest things on earth is either to forgive an individual for what they do to one personally or to one whom they love. When I consider that which every child of Adam had a hand in, the rejection and crucifixion of the Lord, the spitting on God’s beloved Son, mocking the Christ of God and crucifying him, then God says, “I am willing to forgive you for all your wickednesses,” that is love! Someone might say, “I never would have rejected and crucified the Lord” but the very fact that any individual, irrespective of class or creed rejects the Salvation He has freely provided, they are in effect saying as those of old, “I will not have this man to reign over me” (Lk. 19:14), “crucify Him” (Lk. 23:21). To such God offers unconditional forgiveness. There is no further opportunity given for forgiveness after death! Not a single individual who has rejected God’s way of salvation through Christ alone will ever hope to find forgiveness in eternity.

c) Unconditional assurance of never being in the caverns of the damned in unspeaking anguish for all eternity.

- i) What does the dependence on the finished work of Christ mean? It means that I recognize my personal hell, my deserving of being forsaken by God, my sufferings in the Lake of Fire for all eternity have all been borne by Christ at Calvary. By depending on Christ and His work ALONE, WITHOUT ANY WORKS OF MINE FOR SALVATION, I am saved, rescued, and delivered from the judgment of God for all eternity.

... Rowan Jennings