

## Sermon Title: The Joys and Sorrows of Motherhood!

### Sermon Text: Excerpts of Genesis and John 16:20-22, 33

*"Being a mom is like fudge... It's really dense and super sweet, but there are times when I'm like, 'I've had too much, and I might be sick!'"*

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms out there! I am not a mother, but I have one, and I'm married to one, and what I have observed is that motherhood is filled with both great joys and great sorrows!

Motherhood reflects the human condition in that way... we experience incredible highs (being in the land that is plentiful, where streams of abundance flow. When the sun's shining down on me, when the world's all as it should be)...

We also experience incredible lows (being found in the desert place, walking through the wilderness... On the road marked with suffering, where there's pain in the offering)!

When it comes to being a mom, the struggle is real to declare as we sang, "Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise... and when the darkness closes in Lord still I will say... You give & take away... 'Blessed be Your name!'"

When it gets really hard, & you're going through those difficult seasons of life, believe that *"Strength will rise as we wait/hope/trust upon the Lord..."*

*"Our God reigns forever! He is 'Our hope, our strong deliverer!' 'The defender of the weak...' the One 'who comforts those in need & lifts us up on wings like eagles!'"* These are the words moms need to hear today!

The God we serve today is the same God we've seen in Genesis! Our struggles are also the same as those of long ago, & God's faithfulness remains the same!

Therefore, we can proclaim, *"You have been my God, faithful through the years! Nations rise and fall, You are standing still. You will be my God, what then shall I fear. I know whatever comes You'll be with me still."* Amen

We serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph! But we also serve the God of Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, & Tamar - the moms of Genesis!

In the midst of their great joys & sorrows, these moms reveal great faith!

- **Eve** – The wife of Adam! The first woman on earth & the first mom!

**Sorrow** – She was banished from Paradise & the presence of God because of her sin. Her firstborn son Cain killed her second son Abel.

**Joy** – She would bear more children and be the "mother of all the living." Her offspring would one day destroy her enemy – sin, death & the devil!

- **Sarah** – the wife of Abraham (the father of God's people).

**Sorrow** – She remained childless for most of her life!

**Joy** – At the age of 90, she gave birth to Isaac, the child of the promise!

- **Hagar** – Sarah's servant. She was a foreigner and a slave. She bore Abraham a son, named Ishmael!

**Sorrow** – She was forced into a lose-lose situation & suffered b/c of it!

**Joy** – God saw her, heard her cry, had compassion on her, & promised that her son would father a great nation as well!

- **Rebekah** – Isaac's wife who left her home to marry a man she had never met!

**Sorrow** – She was barren for the first 20 years of her married life, and never saw her favorite son, Jacob, again after he fled from his brother.

**Joy** – She did give birth to twin boys, Jacob receives Isaac's blessing. God's Word to her is confirmed & the covenant promise is preserved!

- **Rachel** – the Daughter of Laban, the beloved wife of Jacob.

**Sorrow** – She so longed for children & watched Jacob's other wife bear him many sons. She died giving birth to her second son Benjamin.

**Joy** – Her husband cherished her, and she did eventually give birth!

- **Leah** – Laban's other daughter & Jacob's other wife!

**Sorrow** - She lacked her sister's beauty & her husband Jacob never loved her the same way he loved Rachel.

**Joy** – God blessed her womb, & she bore Jacob 6 sons and 1 daughter!

- **Tamar** – The daughter-in-law of Judah (one of Jacob's 12 sons)!

**Sorrow** – The men in her life failed her, leaving her a childless widow!

**Joy** - Her daring behavior & God's providence made a way & she bore twins.

**Psalms 113:9** – God sees you; He hears you, and He will settle you!

**Psalms 127:3** – Motherhood is a heritage, a reward!

**John 16:20-22, 33** – There's a joy, greater than motherhood. The joy of the Son!

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