

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

May 2021

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" Luke 13:34

Mother's Day is May 9th, 2021. It's a day we set aside to remember and celebrate our Mothers. One thing I've observed as a husband that I hadn't really noticed as a single man or child is just how incredibly busy being a mother is. You see it in every day events. Waking up in the middle of the night to feed or comfort a child, waking up in the morning with the kids even when she didn't sleep very well, making their meals, cleaning up after them, and much more. All that while being a wife, employee, or boss depending on the situation.

A mother's love is self-sacrificing, so it's no surprise that God sometimes uses motherly language to describe his love for us. Here He speaks over a people that he loves, his children, who have by and large rejected him. He wants to gather them in and protect them like a mother hen would gather her chicks but they would not have it! I've heard stories of finding live chicks under the body of a mother hen in a collapsed chicken coop or barn. In those situations, the mother protected her young with her very life. This is the love that Jesus has for all of us.

Jesus also shows us how we ought to treat our mothers:

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." John 19:26-27

As the eldest, Jesus would have been responsible for the care of His mother. On the cross despite all the suffering he remembers her and make's sure his duty to her will still be fulfilled. He entrusts her into the care of his beloved disciple. At the end, with the weight of the world on his shoulders, Jesus takes care of his mother. This also shows us that Jesus is still, on the cross, perfectly keeping the law. "Honor Your Father and Mother". Notice that this commandment has no qualifications or conditions. The law doesn't say honor your mother if she deserves it. It doesn't say honor her unless she doesn't live up to your standards. God simply commands us to honor them. A mother isn't honored by virtue of her performance she is honored by virtue of God's commandment.

The greatest tragedy is that there are some Mothers who, like Mary, have had to experience the death of their children. Who find this day that is set aside for them is nothing more than a reminder of their grief. If you find yourself struggling on Mother's Day know this: As Jesus remembers His Mother, He also remembers you!

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll