

Remnant Life Church  
May 10, 2026  
**Familiar Stories Retold:**  
**How Deep a Mother's Love**  
*(Mother's Day)*  
I Kings 3:16-28

Before we get into what I believe God has laid on my heart, I would like to address something first

- It has to do with each of us, men, and what is expected of us on days such as this
- It is a sad yet valid fact that we are forced to acknowledge on special days throughout the year
  - Because it presents us with yet one more opportunity to make a bad gift purchasing decision
- Mother's Day
- Her Birthday
- Anniversary
- Christmas
- Groundhog Day
- Whatever the occasion, we rarely make the right choices when shopping for our wives

Granted that is likely the only person a man will usually shop for, but I can guarantee the whole experience is very stressful for every one of us.

- Many a man has felt the extreme frigid temperatures over an extended period of time based on a poor gift-buying decision.
- And so, as a community service and my gift to each of you men here today, I would like to offer some things that you must keep in mind if you have any hope and prayer of making the right decision when buying a gift for your wife
  - And men you may have never taken a single note in church in your life
  - You may never pick up a pen and paper for as long as you walk into this church
  - But I am telling right here and now...right these down!

1. Never buy anything that plugs in. Anything that requires electricity will be seen as related to housework and you will only be creating an environment that you do not want to live in. (For instance, a new vacuum cleaner will earn you several nights sleeping on the couch)
2. Don't ever buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in ten thousand that you will get her size right, meaning you will be upsetting her the other 9,999 times. "Do I look like a size 18 to you?" will immediately drastically change the temperature of any room.
3. Don't buy jewelry. I know what you see on the commercials, but the simple fact remains - the jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford; and the jewelry you can afford, your wife doesn't want.

4. Do not ever buy anything sports related like a new driver or putter thinking she will actually believe that it's for her. She will see through that in less time than it will take you to decide what course you want to play next.
5. Finally, don't spend too much. If you hear, "How do you think we're going to afford this?" it will take all of the warm and fuzzy feelings right out of your effort. But don't spend too little either. Because she may not say anything, but what she will be thinking is, "So, that's all I'm worth to him, huh?"

The idea for Mother's Day was born in a small Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. It was 1876 and the nation still mourned the Civil War dead with the hostilities having ended less than 10 years prior. It was while teaching a Memorial Day lesson that Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis began thinking of all the mothers who were still suffering as a result of those three years of devastation, and she prayed that one day there could be a type of "Memorial Day" just for mothers. Now she never got to see her dream come to pass, but on the day of her death, her daughter was determined to establish Mother's Day in her honor.

On May 12, 1907, a local observance was held which was later embraced and brought to Philadelphia and sponsored by Wanamaker's (John Wanamaker who created one of the first and largest department stores in the country, was a devote Christian; refusing even to advertise on Sundays) By 1910, Mother's Day was being celebrated in 45 of the then 46 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Canada, and Mexico.

And then on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day for the purpose of, "Displaying the American flag and for the public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of the country."

This morning, I would like for us to consider another familiar story from the OT that involves the beautiful love of a mother.

**READ: I Kings 3:16-28**

- We most often regard this passage in **I Kings** as the shining example of Solomon's God-given wisdom
  - But there is another story here as well – and yes, I believe it is a Mother's Day story
- But again, not your traditional Mother's Day story
  - I guarantee that this is not the TV mom of the 50's vacuuming the living room and doing house-work in a pleated skirt, matching blouse, heels, perfect hair and makeup and, of course, wearing a strand of pearls
  - No, these two mothers could not be further from that
- Look at what we know about them:
  - First, they are prostitutes (**v 16**)
    - While it was certainly looked down on as an undesirable way of life, in that time it was tolerated (primarily because the men made the rules)
      - Often prostitutes were slaves whose owner used her to make money for himself

- They may be women who had never married and had no other way to support themselves
    - They may have been desperate widows
      - And because of how their culture treated and ignored widows, is it any wonder why Jesus had such great compassion for them?
      - She had virtually no means of support and was not cared for by the community or even the church of the day
    - In fact, He cared for them so intensely that when talking about the Jewish leaders Jesus said in **Mark 12:40**...
      - *“...They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”*
  - Both of the women in this story had conceived and given birth to a child, but the men were no longer around
    - We are certain of that fact because they were speaking for themselves before the King, meaning they were alone since they would have not normally been permitted to do that
    - One thing is certain – neither of their lives are moving in the right direction
  - One has lost her baby to a tragic accident, and one is claiming her baby had been taken from her
  - There appeared to be no way of determining the truth of either story, yet Solomon agreed to hear their case
- Before we come to that there is a question that should not be overlooked:
    - Why would King Solomon involve himself in such a sordid situation?
    - I believe there are two reasons -
      - First, he had been given a supernatural compassion by a loving God just as he had been given supernatural wisdom
      - Second, his actions are a blueprint for what the church today should be – showing compassion, in whatever circumstance it is, to a lost and dying world
        - People are hurting perhaps as much as any time in our memory
        - Not necessarily physical pain or want although we do see much of that
        - But fear, distrust, anger, confusion are all continuing to escalate
    - The lost need to find Jesus and it is not often going to be through the words heard at a church service but it is much more likely it will be through the kindness and compassion of a Christian
    - I have spoken many times to the increasingly absence of influence the church and Christians has in our world today
      - How do we change that?
      - It begins with committing our lives to following the example of Jesus Christ
      - And that example is seen many times in the love of a mother

- So back to our story
  - This situation is about as far from perfect as you can get
    - 2 women living under the same roof as prostitutes
    - One is a schemer, and the other is heart-broken
    - But only one was the true mother of the child
  - You see, Solomon knew, in the wisdom that God had given him, that the real mother would do anything to protect her baby
  - And that is exactly what happened
    - The birth mother was willing to give up her baby rather than see him harmed
    - That is the very definition of sacrificial love
      - A love that says, I will sacrifice myself, my happiness, my comfort, my security because the alternative is for your best interest
  - That is what God did for each of us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – a sacrificial love
    - And many of us here this morning saw that modeled for the first time in our mothers
  
- Of course, Mother’s Day is not a day of celebration for everyone
  - I don’t think you ever fully recover from the loss of your mother
    - Katerina and I have both said goodbye to our mothers over the past 3 years
    - It is still raw and I have stopped trying to put a time-frame on when the pain will subside.
  - But losing a loving mother is probably easier still than having a mother who you did not show the love and affection we all so desperately need – especially when we are growing up

We honor our mothers today, but we should do that every day for all that they have done and continue to do for us.

- It is why we have been told, by God, to honor her

In **Ex 10** – Moses receives the 10 commandments on Mt. Sinai

- Nine of them are straight directives (do this/ don’t do that)
- But only one carries with it a promise
- It is the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, somehow very fitting to be the one in the center of how we should live
  - (**v 12**) *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

To be a godly father or mother requires sacrificial love

- So too does living the life of a Christian
  - And that becomes more and more true with each passing year
- But the good news is, loving as a godly mother or father does not require that you be perfect

We see the true love of godly, imperfect parents demonstrated in both the Old and New Testaments

- But not always in the way you might expect
- Abraham offered his son Isaac as a physical sacrifice to God in **Gen 22**
  - Of course, God did not allow that to happen
  - But it was a statement of Abraham's commitment to God, to sacrifice his son, even as he desired to be a good, loving, and protective father
- Jacob was a loving and caring father to his 12 sons whose ancestors would become the 12 tribes of Israel
  - Even though he showed favoritism to Joseph, which is a very harmful and divisive way to parent
  - But he always loved his sons in spite of all their great shortcomings
- Hannah dedicated and presented Samuel to a life spent in service to God in the temple (**I Sam 1**)
  - She surrendered her opportunity to raise him so that she could honor the promise she made to God
  - That is living sacrificially
- Mary dedicated Jesus back to God (**Luke 2**)
  - She knew before Jesus was even born that He would live a life different from the other boys
  - She raised Him in order to prepare Him to leave her

Sacrificial love takes many shapes and forms but there is one characteristic true to them all – the love is unconditional

- That love is agape love
  - It is not the world's definition of love; it is God's
- A mother's love is unconditional
- A father's love is unconditional
- And most importantly, the author and the finisher of our faith, His love is unconditional for each of us here this morning

And so, what is the best way to honor our Mothers today?

- Certainly cards, flowers, gifts, and dinner all play a role
- But they are secondary to what is most important and lasting
  - The best way to honor your mother on this Mother's Day 2026, is to be a willing and loving part of the legacy she has created and left in you
  - Give that same sacrificial and unconditional love you received from her to others
  - And if you are blessed enough to still have your mother in your life
    - Honor her... *so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.* (**Ex 10:12**)