

## **Have You Met My Mother?**

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John 8:41

Bunkertown COB

Poet Wilhelm Busch said, "To become a mother is not so difficult; on the other hand, being a mother is very much so!" Apparently he must have met my mother.

Consider Calvin's mother in the Calvin & Hobbes comic strip. One of my favorite scenes in this cartoon finds Calvin driving nails into the coffee table. His mother runs into the room screaming, "Calvin! What are you doing to the coffee table?" He ponders this question for a moment then asks, "Is this a trick question?" Bill Watterson must have been talking to my mother.

Sometimes you may feel like Calvin's mother. But boys like Calvin (or Greg) grow up. The moments of craziness begin to subside. Sure it's been difficult, but you do what is right and what is best for the child. You love your child deeply and are trying to do what is best for them. At the end of the day the only thing you question is your sanity. But sometimes it seems as if the whole world is working against you. You try to teach your child what is good and honorable. You try to instill Christian values and morals. Yet every time you send them out the door they meet other children whose parents are far more lenient; whose parents seem to give their children all they want. And when your child comes home telling stories of what Tommy or Billy were allowed to do, you struggle with the pressure to be just like all the other mothers. But you don't. You continue to be the Christian mother God has asked you to be.

It is very difficult being a Christian mother today. But as hard as that may be, we need to realize that difficulties are not unique to our time. In every age Christian Motherhood has had its share of difficulties. Take Mary, the mother of Jesus, for example. She was pregnant out of wedlock. Now we know that the baby was of the Holy Spirit; the Son of God. But do you think they believed that story in the little town of Nazareth? Juicy gossip is a hot item in small towns. And here's this unmarried teenage girl expecting a child. Have you ever stopped to consider that Mary probably knew that this would happen? I suspect Mary understood that

accepting the responsibility of being the mother to Jesus would be very hard. And it would begin even before He was born.

Oh yes, there was gossip and criticism for agreeing to be the mother God needed her to be. And Mary endured this pressure for years. Thirty years after Jesus was born, the stigma still remained. For the enemies of Jesus remind Him of His birth when they taunt, **“We aren’t illegitimate children!”** <sup>1</sup> (John 8:41)

There is so much pressure on mother’s today to compromise; to be just like all the other mothers. But you know the truth. You are the type of mother that doesn’t mind the gossip about “Being too strict”. You endure what the other parents say when you enforce a curfew or make rules about your child’s friends. Your goal is not to be popular, but to do what God has called you to do.

Some times it also seems like the forces of darkness are working against you as well. In case you don’t realize this, Satan sees your child as God’s gift to you. Psalms 127:3 says, **“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”** <sup>2</sup> Satan knows that the quickest way to destroy your family is to attack your child who doesn’t have the maturity or power to deal with him. So to protect your children in their vulnerable years you may have to curtail the television or computer, and monitor what’s being viewed in your living room or in your child’s bedroom. You may even have to shut them off. You may have to go to school once in a while and talk to the teachers and the administrators about what your children are being taught. You will need to discipline them and train them to respect adults and authority, and to grow up to be strong Christian men or women.

With the way the world seems to criticize a godly mother and the way Satan seems to be working against you, there must be some place a mother can come to find encouragement and hope. There must be a place a godly mother can find the support she needs to be faithful to what God has called her to do.

It appears Mary did not endure everything on her own. We find two other women standing with her at the cross. **“Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother,**

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<sup>1</sup>Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup>Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene.”<sup>3</sup> (John 19:25). It seems these group of women (this early example of the Church), offer support and care to Mary in this extremely difficult time. But then Jesus looks at John and says, “Have you met my mother”. He turns to this Apostle and charges him with His mother's care. **When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.”<sup>27</sup> And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.**<sup>4</sup> (John 19:26-27). Do you know what I see here? I see this group of Christian believers caring for a mother who had to endure a very tragic time in her life. And Jesus made sure she didn't go through this alone.

This is why I love the church. I love the church because it is here you will find people of kindred heart and loving support. It is here where those who have lost their mothers can find the tender nurturing they need. It is here that those who have a poor relationship with their mother can find a room full of other women who reach out with love and care. It is here that those who have never been a mother biologically can still give, love, and care for the many children with the church. And it is within the church family that a mother who makes the tough, godly choices for their child can find other mothers who do the same.

Would you do the same for the mothers within this church? Would you offer them this same depth of love and support? My friend, don't let the mothers in your midst fend for themselves in this world. Find a mother today and encourage her. Let her know that you are praying for her. And thank her for accepting this incredible task from God.

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<sup>3</sup>Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

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