

MOTHERS DAY 2006 "LETTING GO"

1 Samuel 1: 10-28

Today is Mothers' Day,
 I want to say Happy Mothers day to all of you.
 Who joined the ranks of six billion other mothers since time began.
 Hallmark estimates that 150 million Mother's Day cards are sent
 On this the third largest greeting card holiday of the year.
 This is the busiest day of the year at car washes.
 An average of \$105 dollars are spent on moms.
 Only \$90 are spent on Dads. (Just how expensive is a necktie?)

Little Diane wrote: "I hope you like the flowers I got you for Mother's Day. I picked them myself when Mr. Smith wasn't looking."

And how about this one from Carol?
 "Dear Mother, Here are two aspirins. Have a happy Mother's Day!"

Mother's Day is a difficult day for many people –
 For some- their mothers are seriously ill or dead;
 For others their relationship with their mothers is strained;
 The Bible has examples of every kind of mother.
 Even those who wanted to be mothers but were unable to do so;
 And others who lost a child through miscarriage or death

I know there is suffering and pain,
 But I believe we need to celebrate Mother's Day.
 Because ever one of us has had a mother.
 they are central to our very existence,
 as nurturers, protectors, encouragers,

Mother are sometimes underrated and neglected.
 Think about how hard your mother worked to raise you.
Someone ask me when I was young.
 What is your mother's favorite flower?
 I said that's an easy one--- Pillsbury.

All week long I have been asking mother's what
 They have had to give up for their families.
 And today I want to look at what Mothers
 Are willing to let go for their families.
 The first thing a young mother lets go of is...

I. OF HER PERSONAL PLEASURES

The **first** pleasure she lets go of is her private **time**.

By the time a child reaches 18,
 a mother has had to handle some extra 18,000 hours of child-generated work.
 In fact, women who never have had children
 enjoy the equivalent of an extra three months a year in leisure time!
 Over 20 years that is an extra 5 years of leisure.

Second pleasures she lets go of is her **sleep**.

Once you have a child you give up your **rights to your nights**

Mom's can't sleep in.

Up at night changing diapers.

Feeding the baby.

Soothing and calming their fears.

Covering them up.

When does that end?/?

I find grandfathers can loose sleep too.

But who wouldn't do it willingly for their grandchild.

Third pleasure a mother lets go of is her **freedom**.

A mother can't go to the mall when she likes or

Stop for a cup of espresso

Either she doesn't' have the time

Or the diapers have taken her last dollar.

She can't go to the movie.

Or plays, or concerts.

Oh she does get out.

All those numerous trips to the doctor.

And 2nd hand stores.

Her trips to parks and swings.

And we must not forget those early morning risings to

Rush to get to the rummage sales first and beat the rush.

Even I got caught up in that a week ago.

Donna had read about some outside play equipment for children

And thought we should check it out in a local rummage sale.

Well guess who was assigned to get up and go?

You're right I got there at 7:45 am

Boy was I overdressed. I had a suit on for a funeral at 10:00 a.m.

They were already there 15 cars and 25 people crowded into a single car garage.

Nothing left and the sale was supposed to start at 8:00.

Don't people have any propriety?

To top that off on of husband pull me off to the side to talk to me as pastor.

And his wife was buying all my stuff.

Fourth mothers let go of their **desires**.

How many mother have had to let go of buying expensive clothes,

And nice cars and even a good home because of children.

How many mother have given up having a new refrigerator
 Knowing the old one will have to do.
 The old stove with only 3 useable burners would last another year.
 How many young mothers social life is just like that burner.
 Non existent.

For lying awake at nights listening for coughs,
 cries, cracking floor-boards, and coming in too late.
 Mother's have always had the eye of an eagle and the roar of a lion.
 But a heart as big as a house.

A teacher asked a boy this question:

Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you--your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get? A sixth, replied the boy. The teacher said: Now remember your fractions there are seven of you. Yes, teacher, said the boy, but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie.

**I. FIRST MOTHER'S GIVE UP THEIR PERSONAL PLEASURE
 SECOND MOTHER GIVE UP THEIR
 II. DREAMS AND CAREERS.**

Moses' mother gave up the dreams of motherhood to raise her child.
 She was a slave among a very brutal people.
 Pharaoh's birth control methods were the forerunner to our abortion centers
 He had the midwives kill the Hebrew boy children when they were born.

Moses mother put him in a basket to protect him.
 She could no longer hide him.
 And feared death would come
 So she placed him in the River Nile and trusted God.
 His sister watched from a distance and saw the Egyptian princes
 Find baby Moses and she asked if she needed a nurse for the child.
 She offered her own mother who became his nanny Exodus 2:7-9
 Until he was weaned and then she never was able to hold him again.
 Or sooth his tears.
 Or watch him grow.
 He was adopted as an Egyptian princes.

Mother affects us at the core.
 I have seen the sacrifice of a young woman who in the
 difficulties of life found herself pregnant out of wedlock.
 Only 18 but who resolved that her first mistake would not be
 added by subsequent mistakes and so raised the child.
 She gave up the prom
 And Saturdays nights out with her friends.
 She had to get her GED to graduate from high school.

Was this easy.
 She gave up the luxury of her parents home to rent a little apartment.
 Got a second job
 Lived on her own making ends meet.
 Having to live on welfare and all the social programs.
 But what comes first her child or her dignity?
 Did she like it?
 Was it what she dreamed of as a little girl.
 NO,
 But motherhood force her into it.
 And love kept her at it.
 So being a mother does not suggest lack of initiative and ability, but
 It does mean getting priorities straight.

Mom lets go of herself and her dreams, to find herself in her children.

Billy Graham tells the story of a widow who recognized some special abilities in her son and did everything in her power to give him the best education possible. She grew vegetables, kept chickens, took in washing etc and sent her son to university. With graduation day pending the son gave his mother the invitation to attend.

The mother's response was typical but true:

'I cannot go, I have nothing to wear'.

But the son insisted and took her to the ceremony in her plain cotton dress.
 The son tried to get her to sit with his classmates wealthy parents
 but on this point she won and sat on the far left where she could still see.
 The son delivered his message and was handed his piece of paper and his medal,
 and with the sound of the exploding applause he went straight over to his mother and
 pinned the medal on her, saying 'Mother this belongs to you. You earned it'.
 This mother had not achieved all that alone.
 Her faith in Jesus Christ and the values He taught her were her daily strength.

Mothers have protected us physically and kept us from danger.
 Mothers have protected us morally and kept us from sin.
 Mothers have protected us emotionally and help us deal with bitterness and anger
 and what it could do to us.
 Many give up their own dreams and
 Sometime their own careers.

I have a little niece who had a child at 16 and an early marriage.
 She always wanted to be a doctor.
 Went as far as she could but the pressure and responsibility
 Of home and motherhood and a husband was just too much.
 Dreams fled and Life moved on.
 Careers changed and she won't be a doctor.
 But God is using her to train up her child in the way he should go.

LASTLY MOTHER HOOD ALSO MEANS
III. LETTING GO OF YOUR CHILD.

We can let go of a lot of things for our children.

But have we let go of the right things.

Hanna's vow was "O Lord Almighty if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life..." I Samuel 1:11

Hannah was willing to give her son to the Lord for the privilege of having a child.

What a mistake it is for mothers today

To go all through life and give up all the extras of

Time, sleep, leisure, careers, and dreams

And end up with an ungodly child.

That would pierce the heart of any mother.

We're close to our children. They have a part of us.

In the Calvin and Hobbes cartoon

Calvin asks, "Mom, can I go outside and play?" His mom says, "No."

"Why not?" Calvin asks.

"You'll get soaked."

"What's wrong with that?"

His mom says, "You could catch pneumonia, run up a terrible hospital bill, linger a few months, and die." Calvin takes a look out the window and says **"I always forget, you ask a mom, you get a worse case scenario."**

We don't like giving up our children.

Sending them out into the world.

But that is exactly what we have to do.

Hannah show us how to do it with confidence. 5- 6 years latter she says.

²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." I Samuel 1:27-18

Did her voice break at this?

Can you see the tears forming in her eyes?

Can you hear the catch in her throat?

It's not east to give up our children.

But its important to whom we give them.

Think about it.

If you can't trust God with your children whom can you trust?

If you train your children up only in the ways of the world

You give them to the world.

But if you train them up in the ways of the Lord.

Then you give them to the lord

And you do it by teaching the values and commands of God in your home.

Mary raised Jesus in a Godly Jewish home.

She taught him how to pray and worship.

But even for Mary when the time came for him to be about his Father's business.

It was hard for her to let go.

And Simeon said a Sword would pierce her heart.

And it did as she watched her son die for the sins of the world.

Hannah said:

²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord."

Do your children know they belong to God?

Do your children know they were born to serve God.

To love God

To be his messengers and servants?

Do you children know how to worship,

Do they know how to respect a worship service. To know this is God's house

How to ask God the hard questions?

How to have a daily time with God.

Lord Shaftesbury said this: "Give me a generation of Christian mothers, and I will undertake to change the whole face of society in twelve months."

Finally, I want to come back to the point of my sermon.

That mothers in **letting go** of many things for themselves,

Offer their children a life of deep purpose and satisfaction
in trusting God and make a difference in our world.

Let me close with a true story told by Nan Pinkston, a nurse in a cancer ward

About a young mother at age 32 who was admitted with breast Cancer.

Rebekah, her eyes sparkling with love and her hair in a ponytail,
introduced me to her husband, Warren, and her daughters,

Ruthie, age six, and Hannah, age four.

Cradled in her crossed legs was Molly, age two.

Rebekah directed the unpacking of her suitcase —

a comforter made by her grandmother,

a poster of cheer from her church circle,

and a family portrait for her bedside table,

along with her worn Bible.

Warren gathered the girls to go to the airport to pick up Grandmother.

Nurse Nam said: "I need to place a needle in your arm to give you the chemotherapy,"

"I'll do anything to get well for my husband and girls.

I can handle throwing up, losing my hair, and being tired,

but I'm absolutely terrified of needles."

Rebekah's voice shook and her eyes brimmed with tears.

"You can cry, but please don't move. On the count of three ...

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Rebekah said loudly as the needle slid smoothly into the vein.

With this completed Rebekah asked, "Nan, what is your favorite Bible verse?"

I said: "John 11:35," "Jesus wept."

"Oh! Rebecca replied, "That's a sad verse,"

"It brings me comfort, knowing that Jesus is sad when bad things happen to his people.

"I'll have to give that some thought," replied Rebekah.

For the next 18 months, I saw Rebekah on a regular basis to receive chemotherapy and radiation. A chest X-ray showed the cancer had spread and there were no further medical weapons to use against the cancer. How could I support her in this new challenge?

I entered Rebekah's room and found it cluttered with paper, tapes, and a tape recorder.

"Nan, I'm making tapes for my daughters, to know what I feel, think, and advise on important occasions. I don't want them to forget me. Do you have any suggestions?"

I looked over her list — first day of school, becoming sweet 16, first date, first kiss, confirmation, etc. She let me listen to the tapes, which were moving and filled with motherly advice, encouragement, and love.

Rebekah taped each day from her notes as she grew weaker and weaker.

Rebekah explained to her young daughters that she was making special tapes that their dad would keep for them to listen to later. She explained that she was going to live with God and help him get a home ready for them when they were very old.

We all knew the end was approaching.

I was surprised when I got a frantic phone call at home from a nurse who said that Rebekah was pleading — begging that I come with a blank tape.

I could not imagine what topic could have possibly been forgotten.

Entering Rebekah's room, I noticed she was having severe shortness of breath and was very anxious, gasping, "Nan, do you have the tape?"

"Take a deep breath. Of course I have the tape," I replied.

As I set up the tape recorder, she explained,

"This is my most important tape."

I held the microphone close to her mouth and she began,

"Ruthie, Hannah, and Molly, some day your daddy will bring a new mommy home.

I want you to make her feel very special,

and how proud you will make me feel if you are kind, patient,

and encouraging to her as she learns to take care of each of you.

Help her set the table.

**Please bring her dandelions to put in the special vase —
most important, hug her often.**

Please do not be sad for long. 'Jesus cried.'

He knows how sad you are and he knows you will be happy again.

I love you so much, Hannah, Ruthie, and Molly.

Big hugs, from your first mommy."

I turned off the tape player. adjusted the pillow under her head

and exited quietly.

Rebekah died two days later.

I mailed the tape to their dad four years later when Warren and the girls prepared to welcome their new wife and mommy.

Mothers, even as we prepare for the Final letting Go,
let us trust god with our children's future.

And may God Bless the memory of our mother's past and our mothers here today.

PRAYER:

We give you thanks O God, for the memory of our mothers, and for every mother here today, and every woman who cares for children. Let a mother's love prepare every child's heart to know and accept God's love for them. And let every sacrifice given be rewarded, and blessed in the children we touch. I pray in Jesus name-Amen.