

A Mother's Love | Isaiah 49:13-18

Sermon Discussion Questions

May 12, 2019

1. This week's message fell on Mother's Day. In what ways did you consider or honor your own mom on this day? How has your mother or a mother figure in your life reflected God's love to you? We know these holidays can be complicated. Be sensitive as you share stories about motherhood and ways that you honor moms as a group.
2. In this same way, think of how much God loves you. Think about how he has shown you His love. What do you do to honor God for how much He loves you? Share tangible ways that you can show God how thankful you are for the way He loves you.
3. Pastor Tom set the stage for our passage this morning by giving a little background to help understand the story. God had sent Babylon to conquer Israel and take them into captivity and slavery. Is there something that you feel captive to this morning? Something you feel enslaved by? Ask God to set you free from this burden. Read Isaiah 58:6, it is not God's will that you should be crushed down with excessive burdens; let Him free you today.
4. In verse 13, God sees us in our afflicted state and says "Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones." God is telling his people that he will send a savior and promises to free his people. For us today, he wants to remind us that he has already won the battle and while we live on this earth and struggle through different afflictions, he has compassion on us and he will comfort us. Have you felt comforted in times of difficulty? If so, how?
5. Mountains are often seen as obstacles. In verse 13, we see them used as a place of rejoicing. Have you had mountains in your life that God has used as a source of joy or rejoicing? Have you struggled through something and been able to come along someone struggling through something similar?
6. We see in verse 15 that God states, emphatically, "I will not forget you!" Is this easy or difficult for you to believe? What encourages you when you feel forsaken?
7. The result of God's care is seen in the return of Jerusalem's inhabitants and it can be seen today in our return to Christ. In Luke 15:7 Jesus says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." God wants to see all repent and return to himself, and he rejoices over every one who does. Who can your group pray for today? Who are you praying returns to Christ?
8. Pastor Tom mentioned that just as God demonstrates motherly love to his children, we as the church should demonstrate motherly love to those around us. We must love as God loves, with a sacrificial love. We must be kind, compassionate, caring and forgiving. What are some tangible ways that our church can express love to others in our body? In our larger community? Who is someone you can show Christ's love to this week?