

THE HEART OF A MOTHER

By Pastor Maria Gordon

INTRODUCTION: Mothers are a precious gift from God who have been equipped with patience, understanding, forgiveness, forbearance, and emotional strength to care for, nurture and guide her children to maturity. Christian mothers, in particular, have a keen sense of discernment to know what is going on and to recognize when her family members are telling her the truth. Although fathers have been appointed by God to be the priest of the home with the duty of leading their children to know and honor God, many times it is the Christian mother who takes on that role by taking the children to church, talking to them about the Lord, teaching them scriptural verses, praying for them at bedtime, and leading them to Christ when they are ready. Mothers have high hopes for her children and family and every time the child make a step towards fulfilling her vision given to her by God about their future, you will find that Christian mother is unable to stop talking about the achievement of that child. A mother's patience cannot be explained because, like Christ, she will give that child multiple chances to change, improve, and to do the right thing. While fathers will lay down the law and enforce the standard of the home, mothers are right there, just like a defense attorney pleading on behalf of the child time and time again. Children, you are so blessed to have a mother that can and will forgive you time and time again because of the heart God has placed in her that is uniquely different from the heart of a father. That is why children tend to cling to their mothers because they know they will receive grace, forgiveness, and a new chance to start over. Mothers, in general, will fight for her children, place herself in harm's way to protect them, and make all types of sacrifices that others may not understand to ensure that her children have what they need. The reason for all this is that she has a special heart given to her by Almighty God to love that child unconditionally.

From the moment that child is born and is placed on top of her tummy, there is an instant bond that is formed that can never be broken.

When an angel spoke to Mary that she would give birth to God's son, she believed the words of the angel and kept them in her heart. Therefore, she had high expectation of Jesus when he was growing up. The account below is a result of Mary's desire to see God's plan come to fruition even though the timing was not quite right.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: John 2:1-5: *“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

SERMON: Jesus, Mary and five disciples were guests at a wedding banquet. Mary became aware that the host of the wedding banquet had run out of wine. Mary stepped in and took charge of the situation. She had been given a promise by the angel that Jesus was the Messiah, and therefore, Jesus was divine. The problem is that Jesus, at that point, had not started his formal ministry and did not want to jump ahead of God's plan. God intended for Jesus to be water baptized. Afterwards, the Holy Ghost would descend on Jesus as a dove which would empower him to start his formal ministry at the age of 30. Mary knew about the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, as well as his ministry where he has identified Jesus, her son, as the promised Messiah. As a mother, Mary was very eager to see Jesus embracing and working on his calling and anointing. What she has accepted by faith all those years about Jesus can now become a reality. She approached Jesus and simply told him about the problem of the host

running out of wine. Jesus instinctively understood the hidden message Mary was implying about proving to the world that He was the Messiah, capable of performing miracles. That is why Jesus told Mary that she was jumping ahead of God's schedule. In spite of that response, Mary started to operate in faith rather than to accept "no" for an answer. She went to servants and specifically instructed them to cooperate and obey Jesus, whatever he says. Jesus instructed the servants to fill the water jars with water, and the servants did just that. Clearly, Mary had quite an influence since the servants did not question Jesus as to why they were to fill all those jars with water. The second command Jesus gave to the servants was to draw some of the content of the jars and for them to the head steward. When the head steward tasted the water, it was indeed wine. This was a miraculous event that the disciples, the servants, and Mary were able to witness. This was proof positive that Jesus was no ordinary man, and was no ordinary prophet. That miracle led to those five disciples believing in Jesus as the Holy son of God. You can imagine the delight of this mother seeing Jesus achieving something great in keeping with his divine destiny. It would have been a disgrace for the wedding host to run out of wine, so this miracle serves the purpose of preventing public embarrassment for the host.

CONCLUSION: Mothers, you have high hopes and expectations for your children. Don't stop believing in what they can achieve because your investment in their lives will eventually pay off. The Bible says that if you do your part to raise up your children to fear and honor God, they will grow up to do something that is good and noble. This will happen because God will give your children a future and a hope. Whether you have adopted or bear children yourself does not matter. Your love for your children is still the same, unconditional. The call to motherhood is a special calling, and only another mother can clearly and fully understand that. Fathers, the best

way you can honor your wife is to love, respect, and support your wife. Don't try to rationalize the unconditional love of a mother because it is not logical. She has been wired and built for this calling with a unique heart. Children, know, understand and appreciate the fact that your mom is a precious gift from heaven to you. Do not abuse their love, do not take them for granted, and most importantly, honor your mom. If you do that, God will personally give you a long life. Do what is right instead of breaking their heart by rebellion and misconduct. Giving your mom a Mother's Day card or gift is nice. But, what is even nicer and more special is you show genuine love and appreciation for your mom. That will mean the world to her because she can live without your gift. But, your genuine love, respect, and loyalty are far more precious than any gift that you can give her. Mother's Day is not supposed to be a one-time event to recognize your mom. The woman that has given you life, the woman that nurtured you back to health, the woman that loved you in spite of your flaws, mistakes, weaknesses, and failures, and the woman that will stand by you when the entire world comes against you should be treasured.

PRAYER OVER MOTHERS: Heavenly Father, I do ask you to empower every mother, grandmother, and mothers-to-be with divine strength for the challenge they must face to raise the next generation of spiritual warriors. Let them not be weary in well doing when the action of a son or daughter does not line up with the vision and hope you have given them about the future of that child. Instead, help them to believe, to trust, and to depend on your grace that their children will grow up to be honorable men and women who will serve you all the days of their life. I pray that you touch the hearts of children to respect, honor and obey their mom. I pray that you touch the hearts of husbands to stand strong in supporting their wives. May those husbands show their children the right example by loving, respecting, and appreciating their

wives. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen!