

Blessed to Be a Blessing – May 8, 2011

Blessed Mother's Day

“Children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is His reward.” Psalm 127:3

Adam was alone in the garden. He had his work to do tending the garden and naming the animals. He had no one comparable to him. God recognized this was not good and acted to remedy the situation. He formed from Adam's rib a woman to be his helper—his wife. Adam could have given her any name, but even before they had any children he chose to call her “Eve”, which means the “mother of all the living”. Adam understood right away that this new and beautiful creature was a gift of God and that she was to be far more than an assistant in his work. She was to be of one flesh with him; a mystery of God visibly expressed in one respect by the bearing of children.

We see that even from the beginning, woman's greatest calling was to motherhood; a call to bear her husband's offspring, wherein she would also have opportunity to exert the greatest influence upon the world through the godly instruction of her children. God's simple benediction to Adam and Eve in the garden was telling. It revealed God's heart and mind. It wasn't complex. It wasn't a litany of details. It extended to their posterity—even to us. It was straight forward and simple: “Be fruitful and multiply—subdue the earth and fill it”. God's plan was to continue His creating work through the bearing of children. His promise was to bless such a calling and work.

To opine that sin has a way of messing things up is an understatement. Our sinful hearts and minds, combined with the influence of the world, and the wiles of the devil can make the horrifically ungodly into what seems sane and reasonable. It doesn't take too much reading of the Bible to see how far our world has gone askew. In the Bible we learn some simple truths which contradict contemporary thought and reason, some of which has even infected the church. The Bible teaches that children were meant to be a blessing solely within the confines of marriage; God did not desire the invention or use of methods to prevent the birth of children; life is

precious from the moment of conception, treasured by the Lord and to end it is not a matter of choice; the highest blessing and calling for women is wife and mother, a calling and blessing which should be treasured and elevated above all others, for in the office of wife and mother, so often despised and devalued by the world, we find that godly woman doing the Lord's work to His glory and service of neighbor. So high is this calling that the Savior of all mankind is promised by God to be the Seed of the woman....and so holy is this calling that God was not ashamed to take on human flesh—born of a woman! So highly treasured is this calling that godly women from Biblical times and even today sorrow over the fact that God has not yet granted them the blessing of children. Herein, Scripture does not accuse them of sin which prevents such a blessing, but leaves to the providence of God—a testing of faith. Through patience and prayer they find strength to bear such a cross and they should get encouragement from the example of holy women such as Hannah, Sarah, and Rachel, whom God eventually blessed with the gift of children, according to His good pleasure.

It is good to have celebration such as Mother's Day, not as a pandering to the worldly sentimentality of such celebrations, but as a holy celebration of thanksgiving by all the living for the blessings of mothers whom God has called to do His bidding. Let us pray for mothers everywhere that they would embrace the precious calling that God has given them as His sacred work and that we their children would truly be a fulfillment of God's holy Word where it promises: *"Her children will rise up and call her blessed."* (Proverbs 31:28)

Pastor Jacobs

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