

Look to Christ this Mother's Day

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by Ricki Purves

For many women, Mother's Day is a day full of gifts and expressions of gratitude. It is an opportunity to reflect on the blessing of children and an opportunity to honor moms for the ways they care for their families.

For others, however, this same day meant for celebration may hold a measure of heartache. Some women have known the loss of a child, so this day is bittersweet as they look back with joy and sorrow. For others, Mother's Day may feel lonely or empty due to estrangement from children, years of barrenness, or even unwanted singleness. Even if you have known none of these struggles, many women experience doubt and guilt on Mother's Day, as they remember their shortcomings or regrets as mothers.

In the face of these and many other kinds of losses, there is much reason for every woman to take heart on this day and every day. The spotlight need not be on ourselves and our shortcomings or successes, and it need not be on our losses and heartaches. Instead, let us turn our eyes toward Christ and be encouraged that He knows our story more intimately than anyone else, and He cares more deeply for us than anyone ever could.

Look to the One Who Knows, Sees, and Loves

In Psalm 139 we find that our God sees us and knows us, and we cannot hide our thoughts and emotions from Him. As David writes in Psalm 139:7-12, He leads us and holds us fast, regardless of our circumstances and situations. We are told in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from His love – this includes tragedies and sorrows, as well as failures and regrets. The truth that God sees us and knows us should give us hope in the midst of our every circumstance. He sees the losses and unmet expectations. He sees the sleepless nights, the busy days, and the moments where we know we are not enough. He knows right where you are this Mother's Day and every day of the year; none of it is hidden from Him or beyond His loving care.

The author of Hebrews describes our Savior as One who sympathizes with our weaknesses and knows our temptations. We are invited to draw near to such a Savior with the promise of finding the grace we so desperately need as fallen and broken people (Heb 4:14-16). Our God cares for us and will provide for us (Psalm 23). He is our Good Shepherd, leading us through this life and drawing us closer to Himself in and through our circumstances.

Walk in His Light

We can be encouraged that God will use our unique stories to accomplish His purposes and bring Himself glory. Ephesians 2:10 says that we are His workmanship. This means that who you are reflects God's own sovereign handiwork in your life as He is making you more like Christ amidst joys and sorrows. Whoever you are, and whatever your story looks like this

Mother's Day, let me remind you that the Lord sees you, knows you, and loves you. He has prepared good works for you to walk in, works specifically ordained for you and your situation.

Let this day be a day where you lean into His grace and remember the truth that His eyes are always on you. Instead of shining the spotlight on ourselves, let us instead walk in the light of His love, knowing we are held fast by Him every day of the year.