

## **THE BLESSEDNESS OF MOTHERHOOD**

(Luke 1:26-32, 46-49)

The Bible affirms the value of mothers in the heart of God. In fact, there are occasions in the Scriptures where God is likened to a mother in His affection for His people (Isaiah 49:15; 66:13). The Lord knows and understands the heart of a mother. That's why He has chosen to give His special blessing to the vocation of motherhood. The blessedness of a mother's life is best exemplified by the most blessed mother in all of human history – Mary. She is referred to in the Scriptures as the favored one who is especially blessed and chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:28,30). God's dealings with Mary shows us three affirmations of the blessedness of motherhood.

### **1. Selfless \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Call**

When the angel Gabriel announced the news that God has chosen Mary to be the mother of the promised Messiah, Mary responded with a troubled heart (Luke 1:28). Mary was utterly shaken and perplexed because her call to motherhood entails a supernatural and miraculous birth, a scandalous pregnancy and a sense of unworthiness (Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18-19; Luke 1:47-48). In spite of all the difficulties and struggles involved in her call to motherhood, Mary humbly submitted and willingly surrendered herself to God and said, "*I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your Word!*" (Luke 1:38). God has ordained motherhood to be a woman's sacred and glorious call to be God's servant. Mothers are God's chosen vessels who are called to bring forth a generation of men and women for the kingdom of God. The Lord takes delight in the selfless devotion of mothers to their noble and gracious calling.

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### **2. Sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_ for your Children**

Mary's love for her son Jesus was put to test many times. Even the prophet Simeon prophesied the sufferings and sacrifices Mary would endure as the mother of Jesus (Luke 2:34-35). But none could compare to the sorrow of Mary when she stood by the Cross, witnessing the suffering and death of Christ for the salvation of God's people (John 19:25). The call to motherhood is a call to a life of sacrificial love. There is never a time which passes by when a godly mother ceases to love her children. God never wastes the tears and sufferings of a mother who loves her children sacrificially and devotedly.

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### **3. Saving \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ**

The greatest legacy of Mary's life as a mother is her faith in the Lord. She believed the plan of God for her motherhood. She followed the call of God to be His servant. But most importantly, she trusted in Jesus Christ as her own Savior and Lord (Luke 1:46-49). Mary's joy goes beyond her being a mother. Her joy rests ultimately in believing that the son which she bore is the Savior of her own soul. The greatest legacy of every mother is her saving faith in Christ. And her greatest accomplishment in life is to shape the lives of her children to be faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).

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