

“God Gave Mothers a Special Love”

By Pastor Parrish Lee

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Beautiful service, huh? Great time of praise and worship, great time of honoring our moms. And a great time to just be in the house of the Lord, amen? You know, I've just got to say it was wonderful to see all the moms come up here and— that's something special, that's something special, I grew up in the community of moms, they'd come together, and you knew, once they got together, you didn't interrupt that. You know? Once all the moms got to the table, whether they were cooking, or talking, or preparing—whatever they were doing, whenever they got together all in one ensemble, you watched how you walked up on them. And, that's what I saw, just a beautiful spirit of unity amongst them today.

Looking forward—we had a wonderful time, as Pastor Ulysse was here, and he brought beautiful praise, he brought a beautiful message. He taught, and he shared, he started off with talking, on Wednesday, he talked to us about eldership, and he moved on, and it was wonderful, just a wonderful time. And, then, last week, they were continuing, and they talked, last week, it was Brother Kenny and Brother Arman, and, another beautiful worship. You know, we are blessed to have men and women who love God in this ministry. I mean, we take it for granted sometimes, but we are blessed. Really blessed, because we know their testimonies. And, they're not ashamed—if they've got something going on—they're not ashamed to say, “Hey, you know what? I need some prayer. I need some prayer. Pray for me.” And, they will, in time, turn that right around, and say, “Now may I pray and bestow a blessing on you.” Amen? Amen. It's beautiful. It's beautiful.

Well, today's subject, today's thought, today's message, or sermon—the message has been going on all day—but, the sermon, today, today's title of the message is, “God gave Mothers a Special Love.” God Gave Mothers a Special Love. And, yeah, He gave everybody love, He gave everybody love. But He gave mothers a special love. Yes, He gave fathers a special love, gave brothers a special love, He gave sisters a special love, but He gave mothers a special love. Those are the ones that we are going to talk about today.

Giving honor, giving honor to that God who has done all for us, giving honor to our Savior in our Master, the lover of our souls, Jesus, King of glory. Giving honor to Him this morning. Giving honor to all of those who have gone before us, who stood in the gap and made up the hedge, in this ministry. We give honor to every single one of them, from our founding pastor, he and his family, our pastor, he and his family, and for all of those who stood in the gap to make up the hedge. Giving honor for all of their dedication, And, all those who have carried the Word of God throughout the generations, from the time of our Lord until today. Giving honor to all of them. And, giving honor to all of you, who present yourselves to the one true, most high God, that He might do according to you as His will might dictate, that you might receive what He has for you, today. Amen, amen, and amen.

As we said, today's title of the message is, “God Gave Mothers a Special Love.” and, then I asked Brother Rob Severance if he would come and read our theme for today. It's taken from the book of John, chapter eleven, and verse number two:

John 11:2 *(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)*

Thank you, Brother Rob. If we could bow our heads for just a moment. Almighty God, we offer everything to You, and Lord, truly, You are the giver of all good and perfect gifts, so it's not about impressing You, God, but it is about worshiping You, and letting You know that You are

special to us. We come before You God, and we ask that You would bestow upon us according to Your will, this day, for we know Your will, if You bestow Your will upon us, we cannot go wrong. And, Lord, we thank You for what You've given us, even thus far. We thank You for every opportunity. We thank You, God. We give halals to You, God, thanking and praising You, the only God that there is. And, then, Lord we ask as You blessed in our praise and worship time, we ask for this part of the worship to go over your Word, Lord, that it would do according to the Book of Isaiah, it would not return unto You void, but do exactly what You have sent it to accomplish unto us. And, this we do, we come, and we do praise and we claim in Jesus name. And, everyone said, amen. Amen.

Happy Mother's Day.

So, from The book of John chapter eleven, verse number two.

John 11:2 *(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)*

Now, to give a little background here, this scripture is from chapter eleven and verse number two. So, the first thing that happens in here, it talks about—in verse number one, it talks about Lazarus being sick. And, it mentions Lazarus, his sisters Martha and Mary. It mentions those two. And, then, so this happens the Lord wasn't in town, He wasn't in Bethany, at the town, and we have to talk about this, because this verse is so special. So, it was that they had learned that Lazarus was sick, but they weren't in Bethany, at the time. And, so, it was after that they had learned that he was sick, and before the miracle took place. We all know the story of Lazarus, they make movies about it, they have other stories; people name animals, and stuff, or projects, the Lazarus project. That name is synonymous with something that was risen from the dead, that they couldn't understand, it had some miraculous power, it has a definite power, even in the name. And, we know the story, we know the story, we've heard the story over and over, of course. But, this verse takes place before all of the things that happened. This verse is actually a precursor, it is a preview, if you will. So, in this verse, it happens before all that happens, when he mentions it, he mentions it, and it's almost stand alone. There's only a few places where apostle John, or even the other apostles, have done this very thing.

And, you might ask, what? What kind of theme is that? What kind of theme is that? That theme is in parentheses. How in the world is that a theme for the month? I'm glad you asked, I'm glad you asked. It is so powerful that it talks about a testimony before the testimony was given. It is so powerful that he makes note of this enormous amount of love. And, in this preview, in this preview, if we were going into chapter twelve, we would see where it happens, but, in this preview, it is, like, in retrospect. Now, as the story had gone along, they weren't writing it, they were remembering it, they wrote it afterwards. Okay? And, the only other preview we see like this is when they talk about Judas. Whenever they talk about Judas, Judas betrayed the Lord at the end of the Gospels, at the end of each one of the Gospels, but whenever they mention him aforesaid, they always say Judas who also betrayed Christ. His testimony preceded his actions. This, this is the same context. He mentions about what she did, before he gets to describing what she did. It is that powerful. As powerful as Judas's testimony was to the negative, hers, here, is to the positive. That's how powerful this verse is. It's like if you mention a king, and they say, "Well, what's so special about that king?" And, you go ahead and tell what he did, or, if you mention an athlete, or "What's so special about that athlete?" "Oh, he broke that record." "Oh, that's his testimony." Or you mention a person in school, maybe a student, what's so special about them, or them. And, then they go ahead and they tell about them before you even meet them. It precedes even their actions, what they've done, because the story goes on. That's the family that this is. now what kind of testimony, what kind of testimony is this? Yes, for Mother's Day, for Mother's Day. And, actually, for women's month, if you will. What kind of testimony is this? How powerful is this? Well, this isn't her only testimony. This is the Mary that sat at the feet of the Lord Jesus,

and where He said, were Martha came and said “Tell my sister to get up and help me. Sitting at your feet. Anybody can sit at your feet, but we've got work to do.” And, the Lord said, “She has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” So, she had another testimony that says that, it talks about Lazarus, and Martha, and Mary because Martha was the older, it talks about Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, and it says that they were the ones that Jesus loved. So, she had other testimonies. Why this one? Why this one? Well, I'm glad you asked, you see, it said that she anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair. And, I—just reading through that, it's just a few words, let's talk: first of all, she anointed Him with ointment; let's talk about that ointment. If we were to read in the next chapter, we would find out that ointment was worth three hundred pence. And, it's hard to get a grasp on how much that is. Let's talk about how much that three hundred pence: a pence, then, represented a day's wages. So that's three hundred days' wages. Now, if you factor in, like we would, a weekend, like for us, in nowadays, that amounts to one year's wages. I don't know how much you make in a year, I don't know, however much, but, however much it is, imagine wrapping one year's salary, taking it out of your bank account or whatever, and buying one gift for the Lord. That's what this is! And, it was so precious, so precious, that when she put it over Him, if we were to read in chapter twelve, when she put it over Him, it filled the house, it filled the entire house (John 12:3)—everybody knew that somebody got anointed with that ointment, that precious ointment, everybody knew it. So, Mary, here, Mary, here, is saying, “Lord You are of value to me. You are worth this that I have.” And, then, she is saying, “I want everybody to know, I want everybody to know that I love You.” You know how it is. You know how it is. We give our tithes and offerings; we give things to the Lord as the Lord lays them on our heart. And, we don't have to go around telling anybody, when we walk with God and do what he tells us to do, people can tell. They can tell you have it going on in your life. And, every now and then, every now and then, somebody will stop you, and say, “You know, I've been meaning to ask you, there's something about you, you know? What is it? What, what, what—You know, I just notice you're not like everybody else.” That's this testimony of the ointment. But, then it goes on. And, here, you see, the Bible says that she wiped His feet with her hair. She wiped His feet with her hair. Now, to put this in context, good, honorable, respectable Jewish women of the time, they kept their hair covered and they would reveal their hair, in their house, to their kids, to their family, and to their husband. That's it. Good, respectable Jewish women kept their hair covered. It wasn't for everybody else to see their beauty, and their show of love. It wasn't for everybody else, but, for their family. For their husband, for their kids. And, this is what Mary does, Mary breaks the ointment and anoints the Lord, and wipes His feet with her hair. Now, we know—we covered it a couple of weeks ago—that this was a tribute, water, washing their feet, was a tribute done to guests that came into the house. And, it was usually performed by the lowest person in the house, and they would do that, it was something that was automatic, it was automatic. But, Mary doesn't use water, she is anointing the Lord; she is setting Him apart in making Him special to herself, and everybody around. And, when she wipes His feet with her hair, this is what Mary is saying: “The very best of me can touch the very lowest of You, Lord. In fact, I know, according to my tradition, I know according to what I've been taught, I know according to custom, a woman isn't supposed to do this, but, God, I love You in such a way that I don't care what the customs and traditions say. I break my sincerity down before You, God. And, I let everybody know I love You like this. I'm not ashamed to love You like this in front of everybody. Yeah, they can smell it. Yeah they can tell, but I'm not ashamed. In fact, in fact, if they loved You like I love You, they'd understand. They'd understand that this ain't nothing but a thing, for my Lord. They wouldn't even think that this is something out of the ordinary.” That's why John has to make a big deal out of this. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord, and wiped His feet with her hair. Yeah, she showed everybody how to be humble. She showed everybody how to be sincere. She showed everybody how not to care about what everybody else thought when it came to loving Jesus. That's what this Mary showed, and that's what John had to make mention of; this type of love, this type of love, loving the Lord like this, teaches people sincerity and humility, honor, and

respect. Now, now, I'd like to talk about another woman. You see, in retrospect, let me back up a second, in retrospect, the very next chapter, Mary does it, but this was after Lazarus was raised from the dead, you see? And, so, her way of coming to God and saying, "I'm thanking You for everything. Lord, I'm thanking you. You rose my brother from the dead; ain't nobody else can do that. And, God would You have done for my life, can't nobody else do that either. So, God, this is how I love You, and I return that Love." And, if anybody else there could have that touch, that feeling, that understanding, that same love, they wouldn't have a problem with it. There might have even have been a line to wipe His feet with their hair. Yes, yes.

But going on to another woman I'd like to talk about, and, yes, this woman, this woman was a mother. Don't really know, couldn't find—and it doesn't really look like she would have been a mother in the same house, but, you don't know. The Bible doesn't describe it out. It does talk about the way she loved Him, though. This one, we'd like to talk about, this mother we'd like to talk about, was one who just followed the Lord around on behalf of her daughter. One who begged the Lord for a healing, even at the cost of humbling and humiliating herself. And, Brother Rob, if you would come again, I'm going to ask you to read again, if you would, please. It's going to be in the book of Matthew starting at chapter fifteen, and starting at verse number twenty-two through twenty-eight:

Matthew 15:22-28 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

Thank you, Brother Rob. So, this woman of Canaan, this woman of Canaan came and said, "My daughter has a problem." And, here, it says that the Lord answered her not a word. The Lord the Lord, answered her not a word. What do you do, when you ask God, and you beg God, you beseech God and you don't get an answer. What do you do? When you're looking for direction, or a way to turn, you're looking for a healing, you're looking for something to come in your life that's going to be a remedy for what you need, and it seems like you can't get an answer from God. What do you do? This woman, this woman of Canaan, showed us what to do. The Bible says that He answered not a word, everybody was telling her to stop, they were trying to put space between her and God, and the Bible says she's crying after Him, and then He said, "I'm not sent to her. I'm not sent to her, but to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." And, verse number twenty-five says then came she and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me." What do you do when you feel like you can't get an answer from God? You know what you do? She showed us what to do. You don't turn back; you turn to God. And, she entered into worship. The Bible says she entered into worship, and then worshipped, "God help me. God help me." And, when she got, when she entered into worship. See, Christians know, God's people, they know something. They know, I can lightly ask, there's all kinds of levels of asking. I mean there's an asking, were you quit everything; you fast, you don't even change your clothes, you don't even turn on electricity. There's an asking where you plead with God, and there's an asking where "Oh, God, if it's okay, you know, I've got a couple of minutes here, but if it's okay, go ahead, and I could use this blessing. I would like to get me some ice cream on the way home, but, You know, if not, it's no big deal." There's several levels of asking, but she showed, "If I don't get an answer, that's God. I'm going to enter into worship. Lord, help me." And, then she got an answer. It was not the answer that she thought she would hear. It was not the answer that she was looking for. it was not the answer that

she wanted. The Lord says to her, in verse number twenty-six, He answered and said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs." That ain't the answer that she wanted to hear; who wants to hear an answer like that? She didn't want to hear that. But, there was something going on here. A mother, a mother. That's who the Lord was dealing with. And, He knew He was dealing with her, and He was getting it out of her. He knew this whole thing was going to happen. He's the Lord, of course. So, as He gave her that comment, she turned around and gave a comment. She didn't use that for an opportunity to run away, to hold her head down, just say, "Huh. I never thought I'd get an answer like that from God." She used that as a starting point. Yes, she could have felt belittled, Yes, she could have felt put down. Yeah, she could have felt being put on the outside. But, she accepted what God told her, and she went from there, into an answer that God could give her. She accepted what God told her., "Yay, Lord, yay, Lord." Now, I have to say this: So many times, we come into the presence of God. If you've known the Lord for any length of time you have entered into His presence. And, if you enter into the presence of God, especially as a child of God, wide open, you find that His ways are so much higher than our ways. And, when you see that there's a great distance between you and Him, yeah, you feel low, yeah, you feel down, yeah, you feel like Isaiah said, I feel like a worm (Isaiah 41:14). Like a worm. We all as worms. Yes, you feel so low, not even a dog. We feel so low, when you enter into His presence, but, here again, this is a mother, this is a mother, and in feeling like that, this mother, instead of being discouraged and walking away, actually used this for a starting point, in entering into worship, something happened. Something happened. You see, when you enter into worship, there's praise going on. When you enter into worship, there's gratitude going on. There's thankfulness going on. When you enter the worship, obeisance, goes on. How many times have you entered in—I mean, you could have a bad spirit, you could be mad, you could be sad, and you can enter into worship, and God changes your mind. He changes your heart. He changes the situation. All of the sudden the sun is rising, and you see hope. All of the sudden your way is a lot more clear. And, you know, a "If I can't see the end, I know, whatever the end is, God will be with me. I don't have to know everything. God was going to take care of the rest. When I enter into worship, it becomes so much more clear. Because I entered into worship with God. I got closer to God. And, as I got closer to God, I began to understand, He is in control and I'm not. He can do it, and He will do it, in His time. God will be God in my life, when I enter into worship. He will inhabit that time, and when God inhabits something, it's God on the scene. Of course, of course, we know that when we enter into His presence, and we enter into worship, we have thanks and gratitude going on. As we know that His ways are so much higher than ours, we also understand that, as much as a worm I feel like—I don't know if everybody's felt like a worm, maybe some felt like dogs, maybe some felt like elephants, I don't know. But, I know when you come into His presence, He is here, and we are not. So, when we come into His presence, there's another thing that we enter into and understand: grace and mercy. Grace and mercy. From the Book of Psalms one-thirty, and verse number three. The Book of Psalms, chapter one-thirty, and verse number three. Just look at how great our God is:

Psalm 130:3 *If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*

God, if you pointed out all my sins and faults, of course I wouldn't have a chance. I mean, I feel like when I come into your presence, if you don't clean me up, if you don't pour out some mercy, and some Grace, I will stay there. But, God, every time I come before you, and I'm honest, you've given to me grace and mercy. Every time. That's how good God is. And, then, from The book of Psalms, chapter one hundred and -three, starting at verse number eight. If I could ask Sister Nazira to come up and read. From the book of Psalms, chapter one hundred and three, we're going to read verses eight through thirteen.

Psalm 103:8-10 *The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

Wait, wait, wait. Did you say He has not dealt with us according to our sins, and iniquities? He is not rewarded us like we deserve to be rewarded? That's our God? Hallelujah. Go ahead, my sister.

Psalm 103:11-13 *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.*

Thank you, so much. Thank you, so much. He has not rewarded us. You know, we might think, "This is even." No, no, no, no. If God were to mark iniquity, who could stand? Now, He does not reward us according to our iniquities. If it were stretched out—if mine were stretched out, it's a lost cause. Be thankful for grace and mercy in the precious blood of the Lord. Amen, amen. So, this mother knew, as most mothers do, that Almighty, all-powerful, all gracious God He could look upon her and judge her, but she knew something. She knew, because she was a mom, here. She knew that she had this type of love going on in her, and she knew that, "If my child, if my child comes to me even after she"—here it was a she—"after she's done wrong, if my child comes to me and tells me it's wrong, and asked me for her help. I'm not going to turn away, kick her down the stairs, and say get out, until I feel like letting you back in." No, no, no, no, she knew if my child comes to me, and my child says, "Mommy, I done messed up. I need help." I'm not going to turn away. You're going to see the love of a mother surround her and bring her close. That's what you're going to see. Well, nowadays, nowadays, we don't know. You don't know what you're going to see. But, most mothers, that's what they have in them. That's why we're still around. That's why, somewhere along the line, we've gotten that forgiveness. And, she knew that her love for her child, was there. So, if her child could get that love from her, and she was a child of God, that she could get love like that, if she just came to Him, and said, "God, I messed up. I need your help. Lord, help me." She knew that relationship as a mother. So, she knew grace and mercy would be applied here. How many times does the Lord allow us to just to get into situations, and give us an answer that we don't like, don't understand, and we have to know, that we just have to keep the faith because we might not like the answer, but God is in control. God is in control.

We had a—we're going through an eldership series on Wednesday, and, last Wednesday, we were talking about the qualifications of an elder. And, one of the brothers, he asked, "What about, what about other qualifications that aren't on the list?" And, this is a bit of a sidebar, talking about that love that we're supposed to have, what about qualifications that are not on the list? And, for example, and the brother said, "What about visiting the sick? And, what about, what about tithes and offerings?" the brother said. And, immediately, immediately, I'm sure there were several fires going on. You know, that's a simple answer. If you don't visit the sick, if you're not interested in helping somebody when they're hungry, if you're not interested in visiting those who are in prison, or who really needed help, if you turn yourself off to that, you don't have to worry about a title. You don't have to worry about being an elder. You got to worry about making it through the gate. Because, according to that, He said, "Inasmuch, inasmuch as you have done it not done it to the one of the least of these My little ones, you have not done it also unto Me. Well, it's amazing, that happened on Wednesday, yesterday, we were out, we had the youth event, and we went out, brother Jason and I, we went out, and we visited Barton home, where Brother Ken is, and we visited another place where sister Anne is, and we went over there to visit, and Brother Ken was just inviting everybody. "Here, meet these people, they're from my church, they're from my church." And, one of the couples came in, and he had said, "They're from my church," so, the woman came in all smiles, but the man, he stayed out, he stayed out at the door. And, as the lady

came in, she, immediately—I don't know if you know Brother Jason well, but there ain't a conversation he don't walk by. And, she walked in, and all of the sudden you would have thought that they've known each other for so long, and it was just going on over there. She was sharing, he was sharing. And, it was like, "Wow, what a spiritual thing going on over there." But, the husband, like I said, he had stepped out. He stayed out at the doorway, and then he stepped in, and he said "You know, I've got to tell you something. He said, "Just a little while ago," he said, "I was homeless. All I had was enough money to pay for a two-day hotel stay, at a hotel, and we had no food. I could not feed my wife. And, I called 15 churches. 15 churches, and they said to me, "Oh, well, you're calling the wrong number, because we don't do that type of thing, here. We're not that kind of church." And he said, "After calling 15 churches," he said, "I lost my faith. Because, if people who were supposed to be doing God's work can't even give me a jar of peanut butter, and a loaf of bread. That couldn't cost them more than \$7. They could take a little offering. They probably spend more on that on a latte." As he was looking at me, his eyes were swelling up, and then I saw, I saw part of our mission, our mission is to minister to people like that. Our mission is to be the Lord Jesus Christ's ambassador to people like that. I saw it, because he said, "I lost my faith." And, I just shared with him, "You can lose your faith in people, even people that use His name, but don't lose your faith in Him, because He has brought you this far. I don't know what happened, how you got it, but you got it. Believe me, He is the one who took care of you." And, he smiled at me, and thought, "Yeah, it was Him." Because your faith isn't supposed to be in man, anyway.

This is the same principle that the woman knew. If we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then things are going to work out all right. So, it's amazing, it's amazing how we see that mothers can look at their children—we're about to close here—our mothers can look at their children, and they can see all kinds of potential in them. Non-Stop, my mom used to be the greatest example to me, in that. She'd say, "Well, Parrish, you know you're going down the wrong track," and I'd be like, "Mom, I've got it all figured out!" and she'd say, "Sure you do." "Look, while you got it figured out, make sure you do this right now. okay?" And, she would always put me back on the right track. And, I didn't understand it at the time, but I came to understand it.

And, by that same token, I want to talk about a little bit about another little mother. I met this girl, she was a co-worker, and she was kind of like a wild child. And, she had gotten pregnant, become with child, and I asked her, I was looking forward to an answer, I'm always learning, and I asked her, "Hey, looking forward to things with your kid?" and she said, "Oh, yeah, I hope to hurry up and get it over with." So, oh, okay. So then she had the child—and, this is a real quick story—and she had the child, and I said, "Hey, has your life changed any since you had your child?" and she said, "Yeah, I'm so much more tired. Every time I turn around, there's something to do for that baby." And, I was like, "Ooh, I didn't expect to get that answer." And, the conversation might have lasted, I don't know, a minute. She went on her way; I went on my way. I got back to work; she got back to work. And, it wasn't just a few days later, she looked for me. And, she came, and she said, walked right up to me, "You know, Parrish, that question you asked me?" I didn't really remember what question she was talking about, but, you know, I had to play it along, so she thinks I pay attention to her. And, so, I said, "Uh, sure! Sure!" And she said—she humbled herself down, and had a completely different look, and she said, "I never knew I could love something so much. I never knew it. I never knew it." Because, that's the answer of a mother. In closing, mothers know that they have more than a natural love. They know they have a supernatural type of love. A love that will go for a through fire for a child, a love that nobody can talk them out of. And, yeah, I know, through the day's times and how some kids go, they try that patience, some of us. I know that, I know that to be true. However, push comes to shove, everything down on the ground, kids always say, "Well, I can always go and talk to my mom." So, in closing: So, then, what is the message the Lord gives for mom's this morning? The love that He is freely given you, that above love, that different love, that world changing love, that

supernatural love, that love that He is given to you freely; we have received it, freely give. Amen.
Give the Lord a praise.