

## **The Greatest Is Love**

Sermon May 12, 2019 – Mother's Day

On this beautiful day, we are celebrating mothers.

In the first part of my sermon, we will recall memories related to our mothers, or grandmothers, or the person who raised us. In the second part, we will focus on the importance of love.

There is a lot to mention about maternal love. I am sure that everyone's heart is full of dear memories, experiences from the past and the present. Everyone could share something nice about their mother's love.

Let me tell you a story I read:

One morning, a little boy put a small piece of paper next to his mother's plate. His mother barely wanted to believe her eyes when she read it: "Mom, you owe me: \$20 for cutting the grass, \$20 for my good behaviour when the grandparents were visiting, \$20 for doing the dishes, \$20 for vacuuming the whole house and \$20 for other services - in total \$100." His mother smiled, but she said nothing. At lunch, she put the \$100 bill beside the boy's plate. The little boy's eyes glowed. But there was another account that he read: "The boy owes mom: for love 0 \$, for loving care during your long-term illness 0 \$, for shoes, clothes, and playing 0 \$, for food and heated room 0 \$ - total 0 \$." The eyes of this boy started to fill with tears. He stood up, hugged his mother, put his small hand on the \$100 bill and placed it next to her plate, saying: "Take this money back mom. Please let me love you and let me do everything for free."

While Mother's Day can be a very happy, joyous day ... it can also be a very sad day ... a day of pain and grief. This is why, in more and more churches, people don't celebrate Mother's Day.

- There may be some people who recently lost their mother ... and today they are experiencing the pain of their loss.
- There may be some people who have lost a child, and their hearts grieve on Mother's Day.
- There may be some people who are having difficulties with their mother.
- There may be some people who would say that their mother was not the IDEAL mother, and they have sad memories of their mother.
- There may be some people who have some guilty feelings about being a mother and are having problems with their children.

- We know people who were never able to have children and, although they celebrate their mother, Mother's Day is not a joyous occasion for them.
- We know people who never knew their birth mother and were raised in a foster home or by relatives.
- There are single moms who are struggling with being the best mother to their children.
- There are more and more children who are raised by two mothers or two fathers as same-sex couples.

A few weeks ago, when I was flying to Punta Cana, I noticed a father walking up and down the aisle with a 6 to 7 month year old child. A few minutes later, the same child was carried by another father. I got quite confused about why two men are giving the child to each other every five minutes. At one point, both men were walking around with one child in their arms. Then I realized that the gay couple had twin children and they were flying with them on vacation. A colleague of mine started a conversation with them and, from their conversation, we found out that they adopted those two sweet babies recently and they were celebrating them with their trip. On the airplane, people were amazed to see the way they cared for those children. A mother gave up on them, and these people opened their arms and embraced them, providing love and support. These days, life is complicated, full of surprises. But if we want to raise our children in happiness and joy, we have to give them LOVE. Having the love of a mother is extremely important, because we, as humans, are very sociable, and it is very important to have close relationships with our mother, or with the person who is raising a child, to whom the children can always turn.

"The greatest is love." In our previous short story, we were witnessing a mother's pure love. It would be good if we would always see, not only on mother's day, what our mothers and grandmothers, aunts or whoever raised us did for us, and that we appreciate what they did for us for free. To receive love is more important than to receive anything else. It is more important than a good education, a diploma, or a great career. The greatest love is happiness in a child's life. We cannot buy happiness. Happiness is created around us by those who love us. Love is created by our hearts, minds, and souls. Love is more than peace. Godly people can love their children and each other with an everlasting love.

It was proved by many studies that a mother's love helps her child's brain develop. Researchers discovered that school-aged children who were nurtured by their mother early in life have a more developed brain with a larger capacity for memory.

Let us lift up our hearts now and praise God for our mothers, grandmothers, or the person who gave us unconditional love, and may we share with all the children in our lives. Amen