

## 5-8-22 Sermon #18

Jeff Foxworthy did a comedy routine based on scents and he was saying that men and women have two entirely different ideas of what smells good. Women like perfume, pot-pour-ri and candles. Good smells like air fresheners, clean laundry or a man's good cologne. Men not so much the same. We like the smell of mud, deer urine, fish bait or anything else that can gross out our buddies. A man will call his buddies over just to say hey Jim, come here and smell this. Our buddies already knows it's going to stink but he's got to smell it anyway.

### LET'S PRAY

Genesis 3:20 **Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.**

Today is mother's day and when I think about mom's, words like internal beauty, splendor and wonderful scents come into mind.

When Jim and I visited Ken last Thursday he was so kind to me and he told me that Mother's day and Father's day are going to be my two best sermons. Talk about pressure. Today I'd like to share some thoughts about the book of Ruth and tell a story about how real God can be.

When it comes to being a mom, I describe it as "poetry in motion". All throughout creation, a mother has always shown remarkable skills and when we look back at Genesis and see how God designed us, ladies are a huge part of God's plan for making man complete. In Genesis 2;23 we see that **The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man. 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

Mothers are so vital to all mankind and when we see what a mom has to go through for creating a new born child, it's unexplainable and just plain miraculous.

I was blessed with having 3 children and two of them are girls. I remember when My daughters were very little, their favorite toys were dolls. Dressing them, combing their hair, putting little blankets around them and cuddling them took hours of their time. They talked to their dolls non-stop, they named them all and nobody was allowed to take them away. By being blessed with having daughters and watching them grow is when I realized that girls are designed by God to grow into mothers. Starting at birth, my daughters already knew what was ahead. Caring for children and protecting them is an instinct. If anyone touched their dolls they turned from sweet innocent little girls to ferocious lions. Something else I never knew about girls until raising two is how crazy girls are about finding good husband material. Neither one of my girls could just have a boyfriend to just have a boyfriend. They were studying boys and talking about which ones would be the better dads and providers. Trish talked to the girls at length about who they should pick. ("Of course they needed to be like me"). From my stand point, as a dad, I hated all boys. My daughters feared bringing a boy to the house and nobody was ever going to be good enough nor would I ever let a boy hurt one of them.

Going back to mom's, as a mother, Trish wasn't going to let any of our kids outside her vision and she used many different types of keen detective skills to stay very close to them. Mothers are the ones who find a way to stay strong when our children get emotionally hurt by others. If anyone does anything to emotionally hurt their child they will claw their eyes out. A mothers sole focus is to care for their children. Some women want careers but their children are way ahead of that. Once a girl becomes a mom, having multiple friends takes a back seat and things like clothing, food, health, school supplies and anything else a child needs is a mom's top priority. The biggest gift from God that a mom gives is unconditional love and tremendous compassion.

This is why I love the book of Ruth. After studying Ruth, I finally started to understand just how much a mother will sacrifice for her children. Naomi was an incredible example. It's an interesting book because it starts off with Naomi having a perfect family. She was married, had two sons and two daughter-in-law's. Then she loses her husband and her two sons. Naomi takes on the responsibility of her two daughter-in-law's. Both of them loved her and she loved them. These two women weren't her flesh and blood but because she cared so much about them she tried to encourage them to go back to their own families. She told them that she couldn't re-marry or have other sons for them. The amount of love that both Orpha and Ruth must have had for Naomi was evident because they all wept together and then, because Ruth loved her so much, Ruth couldn't leave her and return home. Naomi must have been an incredible lady for them to have such a tight bond. Once Ruth refused to go home, Naomi became like a blood Mother to her. This kind of bond makes me think of the kind of bond that God desires to have with us. He wants us to desire Him this much. The book of Ruth is actually about real life for all women. Naomi had a husband and children of her own. She got to experience raising children and seeing them develop into adults. Then she had to experience tremendous loss and become a single parent to children that weren't even hers. Having the responsibility of Ruth meant she had to do it on her own. Naomi didn't run from it, she used her instincts and embraced making sure Ruth was cared for. Naomi had to quickly figure it out on her own. She knew that as long as she stayed in Moab, she had no way to care for Ruth.

In Ruth 1:6 **6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.**

I love how God prepared a place for her. It was a no brainer. She decided that they needed to return to Bethlehem. By

instincts, Naomi knew that she had to provide for food and shelter. But, it didn't stop there. Naomi had to help Ruth with finding a good husband. Because she cared so much about Ruth, she was willing to sacrifice her grieving for protecting Ruth and doing everything she could for her. I see how much God loved Naomi. It may have appeared like Naomi and Ruth had no way to care for themselves but, God provided a way. Naomi thought of Boaz. He was the one who Naomi knew to go to. Naomi knew Boaz was a good man and he was also a close relative. God's timing was perfect. The seasons changed over ten years and food had returned to Bethlehem. Returning to Bethlehem was the answer she needed to hear. Ruth wasn't from Bethlehem but she was granted favor from Boaz. She was willing to serve and work the fields and this is why she was also able to bring food home to Naomi. Ruth was an outsider yet Boaz gave strict instructions to his workers about how to help Ruth.

My personal opinion about mothers is; Mothers are very calculating and also very careful with how they are going to provide their children with just the right spouse. Naomi knew how to place Ruth at the right place and at the right time.

In chapter three it says, **3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home[a] for you, where you will be well provided for. 2 Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."**

Naomi called her a daughter and devised a plan for Ruth. As a mother, she knew Ruth needed a good home and Naomi took all of her own pain and set it aside so she could instruct Ruth on what to do. Mothers are very crafty and very observant. Naomi used her knowledge of what men desire and uses Ruth's beauty and perfume to entice Boaz.

"As men, we don't have a clue"

Mothers have tremendous loyalty and this kind of eternal love is only found in mom's. Naomi was a genius! All of her motherly instincts kicked in and instead of just thinking about herself, she did everything she could to make sure Ruth would be taken care of.

In preparation of this mother's day message, I did some additional investigating on my own. I went to my two favorite counselors. First I asked my 11 year old granddaughter what a mom is to her, she said eternal love and protection. Then I asked my 8 year old grandson the same thing and he said forever love. I didn't ask them this question when they were together and they both shared the same thought with me. "Out of the mouths of babes". Both of these children are so incredible and I'm so blessed to have a family of believers around me. The only way they could of thought this was because of how great of a mom they have. My daughter and son-in-law love the Lord. As a family, we all freely talk about God a lot. When they said Eternal Love, it made me pause and think. It challenged me with describing what eternal love means to me.

How could a child actually know this?

When I think of Eternal Love, my mind goes to heaven and it makes me think about how much God loves compared to us. God so loved the world He gave His only son. God desires to free us from the bondage of sin and this is only for those who believe that Jesus died for our sin. Another thought was; nothing can stop us from ever being separated from the love of God.

Trish and I are going to be celebrating 40 years of marriage next January and God has walked us through some very deep spots. Even though we've both hurt each other pretty bad and we've both had to make some hard choices, we've both trusted that God can get us through anything. Instead of taking the worlds way out, we've been able to experience just how much God can protect us and we've got to experience how much He blesses us for trusting Him.

Trish has been a great example of what a Godly mother is. All 3 of our children have tremendous respect for her and they will defend her to the hilt. When I think of my own mom, I also think of the word eternal love. It's total unconditional love. My mom, Trish and both of my daughters are why I'm able to see how a mom can show an eternal loving God to children.

(I kind of feel bad for Trish because she hasn't been able to fix me yet.) and when it comes to our children, she's still trying to fix them too. Even though we frustrate her, she still never gives up. Yes, men and women are totally different. Men don't understand women and women can't figure out men. That's what makes us complete.

I love how Genesis 2:23 shows this. **The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

This shows how God makes us equal in his love. Men and women have to be different because that's what makes us complete. A mothers love and protection is unlike that of any man. The glow, the smile, the soft touch and the cuddling of her arms is amazing. The bond that a mom has with their children is so different than that of a man. Nurturing, protecting, caring for a child's needs. A child's life is always in a moms mind.

To close today I would like to share Proverbs 31:25-28 **25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. 27 She watches**

**over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:**

Happy Mother's day ladies! May all of your children call you blessed

LET'S PRAY