



Sermon – May 12, 2019
Chris Osborne

Verses Covered

Luke 1:26 – 35, 42 – 46

Luke 2:16 – 17, 19, 25, 34 – 35, 44, 48 – 51

Mark 3:31 – 35

Acts 1:14

So I found this on the internet this morning about moms. Social media is pervasive. Research shows mothers who frequently compare themselves to others on social media feel more depressed, less competent, and less positive about their parenting relationships. Put this down and pick this up. Are there people behind me that I don't...

We're going to cover some ground on Jesus' mom today. We're going to start in Luke. We're going to walk through what she faced, what she did, how she responded. And we're going to cover a little ground. I want us to see what the Bible says and what we face in a very similar way, even though we don't have Jesus as a child, to what she went through and what she faced. Luke 1:26.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸He came to her and he said, "Greetings, O favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting that might be. ³⁰The angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

Which is precisely what happens any time you're a mom.

³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High;

She will not get that.

and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David; ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, of His kingdom there shall be no end." ³⁴And Mary said, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will

come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and therefore, the child to be born will be called Holy Son of God.

Now so motherhood starts out for Mary bittersweet. I mean, what a great statement that an angel has come into the room and said, “Look, you are highly favored and God’s going to do something with you He’s never done with anybody else.” There’s a uniqueness to your motherhood that no one else has had. So she’s obviously as anyone when you become pregnant, you’re betrothed, you’re like, “Wow! This is great.” But there’s the bitter part of it that God actually causes her to have to endure. And that is she’s in love with a guy who’s in love with her. Obviously for character reasons and maybe physical beauty, but also because they’re both godly people. They’re both Jewish. They’re committed to holiness. They’ve not touched each other. They’re waiting for the day of marriage when he’s betrothed to her. He’s gone home; he’s building the house. He’ll walk back through the city of Nazareth to pick her up and take her home. They’re not going to touch each other. One of the things they value about each other is this holiness because of who they are in Jehovah. And now she has to, and God causes her to go through this, she has to go to Joseph. I think a test from God to say to him, “I’m with child. And angel’s come. It’s not mine. It’s not yours. It is no other man’s.” Joseph is not ignorant. He doesn’t buy it because the Bible says he wanted to put her away privately. He doesn’t buy it. And what he assumes is two things. Number one, she’s betrayed him. Number two, now she’s a liar. “Just come clean. Tell me who the guy is. Because there’s no way an angel showed up. There’s no way you are pregnant without some sort of physical intimacy. Just tell me who the guy is.” So Joseph’s struggling because Mary’s betrayed him and now she just has lied to him. So he goes to sleep struggling with that and deciding, “There’s got to be some place I can take her. I don’t want to.” Because he could have had her stoned. So he decides he wants to put her away privately. And sure enough, that night in a dream, probably the same angel, Gabriel, says, “Hey, she’s legit. It’s alright.”

So in the middle of the pregnancy she goes to visit a relative, Elizabeth. Now when she shows up, verse 42 of Luke 1:

⁴²“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³and why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

So she has this great moment. Joseph’s now in. God’s confirmed to her, to her husband now. And so now she’s goes to a relative who has John the Baptist in her womb. And John the Baptist in the womb when Mary with Jesus in her womb steps in, he jumps. And Elizabeth makes this great pronouncement to her, “You have in you, how could the mother of my Lord come.” She then has this great statement, verse 46:

⁴⁶Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. ⁴⁸He’s looked on the humble estate of His servant.”

So she’s pumped. Then she has the birth. They’re in the barn. And let me just say this, OK. The poor innkeeper has gotten just the stuffings knocked out of him his whole life. He has no room. Not his fault. It’s not like he’s got a bunch of empty rooms waiting on rich people. He has no room. I think there are a bunch of us when we get to heave, he’s going to be standing at the gates

going, “Told you.” So they’re in the barn, little manger/trough for the food, Joseph’s cleaned it out, put some hay in there, Mary’s laying there. She’s put Jesus in that manger. All of a sudden, they hear some people coming. Kind of surprised. They’re in the barn by themselves. And some shepherds show up. And the shepherds have heard that the Messiah is there and it says in Luke 2:16:

¹⁶They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known that saying that had been told them concerning about the child.

But Mary, in verse 19,

¹⁹treasured up all these things pondering them in her heart.

So now these shepherds show up. And you’ve got to understand. We’ve romanticized this deal. Number one, you’ve got to look at them, but wonder what they’re doing there, they’ve left the sheep in the wilderness. They’ve give up their responsibility to come see this child that these angels have told them about. They’re dirty, they’re nasty, they don’t smell well, they’ve been in the field. But Mary treasures this because these guys now confirm something unique about her child. She goes to the temple, verse 22, she presents the circumcision at the end of eight days. She winds up in the temple and there’s a guy, verse 25;

²⁵There’s a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

So when he comes, Jesus comes, Simeon takes Jesus in His arms and he makes this little statement about Him and then listen to this in verse 34:

³⁴Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother,

Not to Joseph because Joseph’s going to die. But to Mary,

“Behold this child is appointed for the fall and rise in many in Israel, for a sign that is opposed – ³⁵and a sword will pierce through your own soul also.

Simeon confirms the uniqueness of the child, but he tells Mary, “You’re going to hurt in the very depths of your being.” So we don’t see her and Jesus again until verse 41 of Luke 2. I love this. Verse 44:

⁴⁴supposing Him to be in the group, they went a day’s journey; they began to search for Him

Has anybody ever left their kid somewhere? It was ongoing with me and my wife when Lauren was about 5 or 6. We would leave her at the old building. We’d get to what used to be the Zarape’s restaurant and Peggy would go, “Where’s Lauren?” I’d go, “What do you mean, ‘Where’s Lauren?’?” I’d drive back. There she’d be on the front steps like this. She knew we were coming;

she just didn't know when. So they lost Him. You really don't want to lose like Jesus, you know. But they lose Him. So they come back and they kind of, not kind of, they pop Him. Verse 48.

⁴⁸When His parents saw Him, they were astonished; His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress."

In other words, whose fault is it they forgot Him? His. I think that's Biblical to blame your child. So at any rate. And He said to them, now this stings them.

"Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?"
⁵¹And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them.

You've got to remember, right, they're in Jerusalem; holiest city on the earth. They're in the temple; holiest place on earth. They come back and they find Jesus, and now here's Joseph, His father, with Mary, His mother, and they're rebuking Him and he looks at both of them and says, "You're wrong. I have to be in My Father's house." They don't understand this which is surprising because the angel told Mary this at the beginning. But she's not able to process this and it's really hard because what He just said is blasphemy. He just said, "I'm God in the flesh. This is My Father's house. Therefore, it is also Mine." It's hard for them to process, but they move on.

Now for 18 years she has Jesus at home with no sign of who He is. The Bible says in Luke that He lives in submission. So He goes home. He's not doing any miracles. He's not quoting long passages of scripture. There is nothing about Him that appears to be He's God in the flesh. He's just a normal thing except for one really good thing. He's, now listen, He's a teenager that doesn't sin. Is that not a great thing right there? So for 18 years, except for that, He looks just like a normal guy. Now sometime in that timeframe, Joseph dies. So now Mary is a single mom with several children. The next time we see her with Jesus is at a wedding. At the reception they've run out of wine. They're Baptists, grape juice. If you're a real person, wine. They've run out of one of the two. Mary comes to Jesus so He can do something about it. He says, "It's not My time yet." But He does perform His first ever miracle. He turns the water into wine. So she now sees His first miracle in response to a request she's made. But now the struggled comes. She hears from this moment about all the stuff He's saying, all the stuff He's doing. Blind people seeing. Lepers being healed. Demons cast out. Lame people walking. People with withered hands being made whole. And it begins to bother her. So much so that she thinks that He's having a mental breakdown. Listen to the Gospel of Mark. Jesus went home, the crowd gathered again so they could not even eat. When His family heard it, they went out to seize Him for they were saying, "He is out of His mind." And so they think He's mentally lost it. So then you have this moment. Listen.

³¹His mother and His brothers came and standing outside they sent to Him and called Him because they want to take Him home.

He's obviously having a mental breakdown. Let's get Him home so that whatever uniqueness He is can be restored.

³²And a crowd was sitting around Him and they said to Him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside seeking You. ³³And He answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking about at those who sat around Him He said, “Here are My mothers and My brothers. ³⁵Whoever does the will of God, he’s My brother and sister and mother.”

She is not allowed in the room. She goes back home with her other children incapable of fixing her firstborn. And then she gets the word. Your Son, today, they’re killing Him. She goes to the cross and she stands there watching Him bleed. And she’s standing down there and suddenly a man appears next to her and it’s John. Jesus makes seven statements and one of them is, He looks at her and doesn’t say mother, He says, “Woman, behold your son. Son, your mother.” And they go home. And that’s the last you hear. You say, “Well, preacher, that’s the worst Mother’s Day sermon I’ve ever heard.” Except for one other statement. Jesus ascends after the resurrection, after the death. In the upper room are the disciples, all but Judas. Listen to this.

¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary.

A mother of Jesus and His brothers. It does end well. Because it ends with her Son becoming her Savior. So it does end well.

Now how does that apply to us? I think whether you’re Mary with Jesus or you’re a mother with a child you have, you’re going to go through almost identically the things she’s gone through. She first hears she’s pregnant, what an exciting time. Married, you’ve been married a while, get word from the doctor you’re pregnant. What a great moment. You’re sending on Facebook, and I don’t understand these massive blowouts of blue and pink balloons of whatever you’re having, but just God bless you. But at any rate, so you have the child. Take him home, her home, you’re just so excited. The grandparents in. Everybody’s just loving him. And you enter the phase of fatigue. Because you discover this little child you love is wearing you out. And it’s tiring. I had, and yet the first thing you understand is this child that is going to be difficult and a blessing, is a blessing from the Father. Now listen me. Listen to me. What the Bible would say about your child is that your child is intrinsically and innately a blessing from God. He’s not a blessing or she’s not a blessing because you decided. It’s because God’s decided it when He puts the child and give him to you. That’s key because our culture has made a shift. Our culture has now decided that the mother will decide whether or not the child is a blessing. And then if the mother decides the child’s not a blessing, then the mother could go and have that corrected by a termination of life. That’s our culture that the mother decides the quality and the blessing of the child. No sir! That child is the blessing in that womb and when that child leaves the womb because God ordained it so. That’s the end of it. So we’re going to live, not on what everybody tells us in our culture, but what this book teaches that children are a heritage from the Lord. So your child is a blessing. Doesn’t matter whether that child’s everything you think he or she should be. That child is a blessing.

Number two. Just like Mary. That child is going to be, for you moms, hard. You’re doing the first thing which is the fatigue zone. Everything’s great when you get them home and then pretty soon, you’re tired. There’s a girl in this church, I will not say who it is, but I’ve been watching them plan all these pictures of their new child in Facebook. And then just this week I saw a photo

of them and they said, “We’ve left the child with the grandparents and we’re alone on vacation by ourselves and it’s wonderful.” Yeah. Those go together. Because early on, buddy, it is tiring. And although you love the child, it’s great to say, “Hey Grandma, can you? We’re going to the Caymans.” So I get it. It’s a fatigue time.

Now when you get past the fatigue time, you get into the only thing Mary didn’t deal with. You get into the training time. This is the time when the nature you gave your kid comes out. I have a grandson who when he was little, walked up, I don’t know where they were, but he walked up to this little girl and he just clocked her. Bam! And she looked at him and she said, of course they’re little, right. She said, “You’re not very nice.” So he went back to his mother and he said, “I hit this little girl and she told me I’m not very nice. But I am very nice.” There’s the problem. The nature’s surfacing and they don’t know it. This is the training period. This is when hopefully he doesn’t do that because he saw dad do it to mom. So here’s the training period when that little wicked nature surfaces and you go to the nursery and they say, “Little Bobby took this from little Janey and she’s still crying and we can’t get it out of little Bobby’s hands.” That’s what’s going to happen. And so you go into a training period where you begin discipleship and now you have to engage in discipline. Now that means physical discipline. I don’t mean abuse. There’s a Greek word, *spankós*. There’s the Greek word. It’s all through the New Testament. So you’re going to engage in discipline during this training period.

Now you’re going to come to a point where you kind of pass that training period and now you’re into pure discipleship. Now Mary and Joseph clearly engaged here with Jesus. They took Him to the synagogue. They talked to Him about who the Father was, who God was, who Israel was, they were His people. They walked Him through everything they knew. So they disciplined Him. And then, moms, you come to the last phase which is you release your child. Now Mary has to do that when Jesus is 30. He is ostensibly the head of the family. He’s been doing the carpentry. He set up the business. Everybody comes because of what He’s done; His skill at chairs and tables and all sorts of things. And so now He comes to His mom and He says, “I’m out of here.” There comes a point, moms, where you have to release your child. Mary struggles here because she tries to get Him home. You’re got to release him. Moms here’s the difficulty. There are some kids when you give them the care early on, you’ve trained them, you’ve disciplined them, that when you release them, from the time they get out of High School, their walking exactly where you want them to walk. There are some of you in this room that has been the case and is going to be the case and that’s great. But there are some of you that when you come to the release point, they’re going to have to process spiritually and intellectually and emotionally whether or not this discipleship stuff you taught them, they’re buying into. And sometimes that’s a period of time. And so it is difficult on some of you moms because when you’ve released them, you don’t see what you want to see. And so it’s hard.

You need to understand the third thing. You may not see what God is doing in the child and you may not know what He wants to do in your child. Mary doesn’t. She thinks He’s lost His mind. That’s literally what it says in Mark. You don’t always see. And what God wants to do with your child may not be what you want Him to do with your child. My dad was an electrical engineer, brilliant. And so he had a great proclivity for math. And so he assumed that his son would have that. I can’t even respond to that poor father. I remember he had, none of you under my age will know, but he had a slide rule back in these days before he had calculators and he showed me how

to work the slide rule. And when he finished I looked at him and said, “Dad, you have some issues that you need to address because I don’t understand any of this.” So it was tough on him. Now I was good at one thing. There’s only been one thing I’ve ever been good at. And that’s languages. Always been good at languages. And that didn’t really bother him because any grade above a C on my report card he was thrilled with. So even if it meant languages, good to go. So he didn’t attack me for that. But I wasn’t really what he hoped I would be. But math would have done nothing for me in my calling. But 5 ½ years of Greek did a ton for me in my calling. I’m more at home in that language than I am in the English language. And so God has allowed that in my life that really was not my father’s hope, but God allowed that because that was part of the calling He had for me, not my dad had for me. The irony, though, is the name they gave me. They gave me Christopher Stephen. Both Greek transliterations. Stephen is the transliteration of the Greek word Stephanos which means a crown when you finish running correctly. Christopher, a transliteration of Christos, Messiah and pharaoh to carry. In a huge irony at my birth, they gave me names that would be the calling on my life in the language that would drive my ministry. And they had no idea. Because you don’t see what He’s doing in your child’s life, doesn’t mean He’s not engaged.

Four. As with Jesus, your child is not yours. He is on loan from the Father to do four things. Let him feel your love in the early caring. Train him or her. Disciple him or her. And release him. That child is not yours. It is His. He or she is His on loan to you to train. So when you read this, let me tell you something. There is no mother that’s perfect. There is no dad that’s perfect. There’s no kid that’s perfect. I don’t care what this says, if you live those four things as best you can, then you are not going to be, that just cost money. OK. Which is what you ought to do with that. You are not going to be perfect. Don’t you ever think that a God who loaned you the child He has a purpose for would not anoint you and bless you in your imperfection if you do those four things to bring this child at some point to the exact purpose and call He has for his or her life. I don’t think you can fail as a Christian parent. And I don’t think you can fail as a Christian mother. You do it, you do those four things as best you can, God honors that. I know that because of this. Listen to this. 2 Timothy. He writes to Timothy. He said,

⁵I’m reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois (not in the grandfather) and in your mother Eunice (Not in the dad. We know he was a Greek and was against everything Eunice taught Timothy.) and now I’m sure dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into the flame the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of hands.

What does he say? He says, “Tim, I see something in you that came from your grandmother and your mother.” Now watch this. He says, “It’s not perfect and I’m here to encourage you to fan it into flame.” Your kid doesn’t leave your home perfect. You let God bring into his life or her life the people that are going to enhance and deepen what you have started. And do not let Facebook determine your belief in who you are as a mother. You let it be absolutely sure that as God did with Mary, she wound up in the upper room, you will one day wind up in the upper room. You say, “But you don’t understand, my kids where he is.” Proverbs 22:6 says; you train them up, they’ll walk there. There may be a period where they’re processing. But you trust your labor and the fatigue, your training, your discipleship, and your release that God loaned them to you and He will honor what you do. Don’t you ever doubt that as a mom.

Let's pray.

Father, thank You for every mom in here. Those that are at the end, those at the beginning, those that will one day be. Father just remind us Facebook's wrong. Instagram is wrong. Twitter is wrong. Your word is always right. Drive that into the heartbeat of every mom in this room. In Jesus Christ name.