

Sermons
New Testament
Luke
2:41-52
"Mother"

Outline

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Name: L. J. Stevenson

Assignment: Examination Sermon

Date: Jan. 20, 1943

Homiletical unity: Luke 2:41-52

Text: Luke 2:51

Theme: Mother - *love.*

Proposition: Mother-love is the most precious human love.

Audience: A Mothers' Day congregation in an average church.

*Please read
all notations
carefully.*

MOTHER

Scripture Lesson, Luke 2:41-52:

"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is *it* that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went with them down, and came unto

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Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

Text, Luke 2:51:

" - - - but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart."

is geared to the idea of Spring and its flowers. You would have to handle this point with delicate care, or run the risk of offending the sensitivities of people.

Introduction: 1. Spring is an appropriate time to think of our mothers. a. The beauties of Spring show God's blessings to us. b. Motherhood one of the greatest of blessings. c. In thinking of blessings we must think of mothers. 2. Flowers of Spring particularly emphasize the thought of motherhood. a. Reproductive process reminds us that mothers brought us into this world. b. Flowers being most beautiful at the time they are giving life to their own kind symbolic that the human that gives life to its own kind the most beautiful of humanity. c. Naturally follows that now, in the Spring, is an appropriate time to think about our mothers.

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I. God chose that his only son should be reared by an earthly mother.
This story brings out the following facts about Mary.

1. Mary was a woman of deep religious beliefs.

a. Evidenced by her trip to Jerusalem and the temple. Though it was customary and according to Law for males to go to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover, women did not have to go. Mary probably went out of natural piety.

Usually we think of the depth of religious life & Experience in Mary. Doubtless she did have a firm belief based on this life & Experience. Might not this connection be well shown?

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Does this point clearly belong in the 'leniency' argument? Or are you shifting key without giving your audience proper notice!

Here is another leap in your presentation. We may suppose the mother-influence have been strong. But it would be well

b. Jesus grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." The mother has most influence on child's growth. The way Jesus developed evidence that Mary was religious.

* guide your audience carefully for one point & the other

2. Mary used the idea of leniency in child-rearing. This idea, often thought of as modern, used at least 1943 years ago. The idea is to create within the child such ideas and desires that he will not want to do things which are wrong. Evidence that Mary used leniency and yet was as interested in her child as all mothers is:

a. Upon missing him a search was begun for him. Fact that he was missed only at end of day's journey shows that he was given freedom. Looking for him shows proper concern.

b. She didn't reprimand him when found, but merely asked an explanation. Shows that she had trained him so that they had confidence in his obedience and prudence and He had never caused them anxiety, for she accepted his explanation.

c. Mary kept all the sayings in her heart. Though not understanding the mission of her son, she remembered, like all mothers, the "special things" about him. From the point-of-view of subsequent knowledge Mary recognized what she failed at the time to understand.

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Rather a weak conclusion from
Outline
No impressive array of points
in Part I. Better work out a
strong climactic statement

Gathering up your argument
thus far.

3. Mary was near Jesus through all his life, keeping things that affected him in her heart.

a. We are told that she kept the sayings around his birth in her heart.

b. In this story she remembered the unusual things.

c. She persuaded him to perform the miracle of changing water into wine, we are told, thus showing that she was near him in his ministry.

d. She was near the cross when he was crucified.

All these facts indicate that Jesus was born of and lived with an earthly mother such as any of us might claim. Our mothers do the same things for us that Mary did for Jesus.

Over this delicate matter to present

II. Because of Mother-love our mothers perform the following things for us:

1. Our mothers nourish us. (With their bodies in infancy.) With love all through life.

2. They give us our lasting elements of both practical and moral education.

These points would have to be carefully developed.

3. They instill in us our earliest and most lasting religious beliefs.

Has your argument in Part I naturally prepared your audience for this 'stance' in Part II?

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Has your sermon really worked toward this point? Why not have you worked out a sermon outline with other types of love?

all the way along you seem to be thinking of a highly idealized mother. Will all mothers fall under these categories?

4. They are the most lenient with us. Regardless of the offenses of a child, a mother is always ready to forgive.

Conclusion: Mother-love is the most precious human gift which we have. It is priceless and cannot be repaid. Illustrations to-the-point are:

1. The young Frenchman and the bleeding heart of his mother. Regardless of the hurt which the son inflicted on her, his mother was forgiving and loving. The young Frenchman at the request of a courtesan whom he loved cut his mother's heart out and carried it bleeding through the dark streets at night to his beloved. When he stumbled and fell a voice from the heart said, "My son, are you hurt?"

2. In Proverbs we find this about mother. Prov. 31:25-29.
"Strength and dignity are her clothing;
And she laugheth at the time to come.
She openeth her mouth to wisdom;
And the law of kindness is in her tongue.
She looketh well to the ways of her household,
And eateth not the bread of idleness;
Her children rise up and call her blessed,

dealings with the mother-love is so...
idealized mother is so...
is so...
is so...

Her husband, also, and he
praiseth her, saying:

Many daughters have done vir-
tuously,

But thou excelleth them all."

3. Margaret Widdemer's poem
expresses for us what we remember
and what we hope for Mother:

"She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate;

"And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem
more safe
Because she waited there.

"Her thoughts were all so full
of us -
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.

"Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late -
Watching from heavens window,
Leaning from heaven's gate."

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Palmer

Providence

Mt. Hope

Leitchfield

Independence

Rockyvale

Pawcatan

Hullston Circuit

May 1944

May 12, 1946