

# Like A Mother

(5 10 09)

# Intro

- Different mother's day message that applies to all
- Today's culture: The lost values of mothers
  - How much does a mother make?
  - Survey shows worth \$143,000 per year
  - Teacher, chef, nurse, accountant, taxi driver, etc.
- Couple of places in scripture
  - Jesus' longing for Jerusalem like a mother hen (Mat 23)
  - 1Thes 2:6-8 – Paul said

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, **but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her children.** We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

# Gentle

- Gentile like a mother caring for her children
- Often misunderstood word
  - At times, people see it as “weak”
- What Jesus says in Mat 11:29
  - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Gentle & Humble often goes together
- Benefit - helps others find rest in souls
  - Attractive for people with burden
  - Leave with peace & rest
- What Paul said in Eph 4:2
  - Be completely humble & gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit thru the bond of peace.
- Benefit – love, unity, and peace.
- Imagine a household with love, peace, rest, & unity

# How Does Gentleness Work?

- How can it bring peace, love, or rest?
- Bible says in Prov. 15:1
  - “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”
- Have you been in an argument?
  - What happens when you respond with harsh vs. gentle words?
  - There's power! Not weakness!
  - Prov 15:4 – The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life.
- There's more (1Pet 3:3-4 – 1Sam 16:7)
  - Your beauty should not come from outward adornment..
  - Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth to God.
- Karen English
- Nabal & Abigail (Such great worth)
- Requirements for elders/deacons (1Tim 3:3)

# The Root of Caring

- Where does “Care” come from
- Children’s cartoon (“The Care Bears”)
  - Came from heaven
- John 15:13 & Phil 2
- Christ modeled this for us

# Growing as Shepherds

- **Same requirements for shepherds (1Pet 5:2)**
  - Be shepherds of God's flock that is **under your care**, serving as overseers-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be.
- **Spiritual Leaders are grown based on care**
  - John 21:6
  - Misconception: Bible School makes spiritual leaders
  - Heart of a person that loves Jesus & cares for the sheep
- **As such, I am proud of TOUCH Family**
  - Many are shepherding
  - Not b/c you must but b/c you are willing
  - Setup, Transportation, kitchen, ministering to hurting, needs, worship, children, pre-teens, cell leaders, etc.
  - testimony
- **Opportunities: We & God wants you to be (ie. grow as shepherd)**

# So Dear to Us

## 1Thes 2:6-8

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her children. **We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.**

- All this caring stems from love with a goal
- We do this by
  - Sharing the gospel of God & Sharing our lives

## Eph 5:29-30

-After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body.

- Body of Christ is special
- In the cell – you’ve become so dear to Christ & us
- That is why we do what we do... B/c you are..

# Prayer

- **What spoke to you about this message today?**
- **Pray for one another.**

