

Mother's Day – You Are Not Condemned

Luke 10:38-42

In honor of Mother's Day, I've found a few things for you, courtesy of the internet.

“Little Billy's mom was applying moisturizing cream on her face as Billy walked in. “Mommy, what are you doing?” he asked. “I'm putting cream on my face,” she replied. “Why, Mommy?” Billy asked. “To make my skin look beautiful,” she said. When she started wiping off her face with a Kleenex, Billy said, “Wow Mom, you're giving up already?””

“Mother to daughter advice: Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend.”

“A police recruit was asked during the exam, ‘What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?’ He answered, ‘Call for backup.’”

I've got something else from the Internet, but I'll save that for a little later. And, by the way, **Happy Mother's Day!** Since this is a day we're thinking about mothers I want us to look at a couple of women from the New Testament. They're sisters, both with good intentions. They were both friends of Jesus. Their story is found in Luke 10:38-42

Jesus comes to a little town called Bethany. And He has some friends there. There's his friend Lazarus. And there's Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary. Lazarus is not mentioned here, but in just a few short verses, we find out a lot about his sisters. These sisters were about as opposite as you can get. Martha is a doer. She can't sit still. She's got company so she's got to be doing something. She runs in the kitchen to get supper going. She's Type A.

Mary is the opposite of her sister, Martha. Mary is just coasting along. She is just happy to see Jesus. She's not concerned about what to fix for supper. She's not worried about the dust on the coffee table. She's just laid back and listening to Jesus. Which camp do you fall in?

All of us have personalities that are like either Martha or Mary. Some of us must be doing something, all the time. Somebody showing up puts us into a frenzy. Must keep our hands busy all the time. If this describes you then you are a Martha.

And some of us can just coast along. You wonder what all the fuss is about. Just take a deep breath and chill like me. My attitude is; "what's the big deal?" If this describes you then you are a Mary – and you drive all those who are Martha CRAZY!!

Jesus talks with Martha. He basically says, "Don't work yourself up." Don't be so worried. Don't get upset. Just spend some time with me. Notice with me that Jesus didn't say "never to do anything". He did say He wanted Martha to find some time to spend with Him. Make some time in all the hustle and bustle for Him. He wasn't fussing at Martha for what she was doing, He was pointing out what was driving her to do it. So, in this instance, maybe Mary had it right. If we're giving points, Mary gets a point here

This is not the only time we see Mary and Martha talking with Jesus. Another time is in John 11. Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, has died. Jesus finds out. He and His disciples go back to Bethany to be with Mary and Martha. We'll jump in the story at John 11:17-32.

Jesus talks to both sisters. Martha is first to get to Jesus. Mary gets there later. They're both mourning. They're both hurting tremendously. They both basically say the same thing. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would have not died."

There was some amount of faith in their questions. They both believed that somehow Jesus could have stopped Lazarus from dying. But Martha takes it a step further: *“But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”* She still thinks Jesus can do something. Her faith goes beyond common sense. She believes that Jesus can still do something about Lazarus’ death. She believes Jesus is the Son of God and can do anything.

In this instance, we see Martha’s faith much more than Mary’s. That’s not to say Mary didn’t have faith. These two completely different personalities just express it in different ways. But, if we’re going on action, Martha gets the point this time. Mary got a point the first go around. Martha gets the point in the second half.

So, what does this all mean? Whose side are you on? Martha or Mary? Why in the world would we choose sides with these women? By choosing one do we condemn the other? But we do this all the time in life. We make up our minds about people quickly. And the way we make up our minds has to do with **how we think** about something.

If we’re Martha’s, we make up our minds about all Mary’s quickly. They’re lazy. They waste their time doing nothing. They don’t have any pride about themselves. They make everybody else’s lives twice as hard. Not only do I have to do my stuff, I must do theirs, too.

And if we’re Mary’s, we make up our minds about Martha’s quick, too. They are so obsessive- compulsive. They drive everybody else crazy. They can’t enjoy the life they live. And they take the life out of everybody else’s lives.

Both sides see their way of life is best. And both sides see the other’s way of life as not so good. One side condemns the other. So, what’s the right side to be on? Which side is condemned and which side is rewarded? How does God feel about this? Which side does He reward?

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

If you are in Christ Jesus, you are on the winning side. Whatever your personality. Martha's, if you're in Christ, you are not condemned. Mary's, if you're in Christ, you are not condemned. We all have different personalities and tendencies. Some of those personalities need work. And some of those tendencies need to be worked out of our lives. But, when we are in Christ Jesus, neither condemn us.

Earlier I read you a few funny stories I found on the Internet. I told you I had something else for later. So here it is. Mother's, if you are in Christ, you ought to have no fear of condemnation because of Jesus' work on your behalf on the cross. Mothers, even though you may feel you are condemned by others...

- You are not condemned by messy homes or your inability to cook.
- You are not condemned by being divorced.
- You are not condemned by your need to be away from the kids for a time.
- You are not condemned by your self-perceived failures as a mother.
- You are not condemned by your rebellious children.
- You are not condemned by the frustration of having to scrape mac and cheese off the kitchen floor. Again.
- You are not condemned by all the fears and tears which flirt with insanity and take you to the precipice of despair.
- You are not condemned by not being able to throw the party of the century for your kids.
- You are not condemned for not feeding your kids meals that could only be made after a trip to Whole Foods.
- You are not condemned by your need for a vacation.
- You are not condemned for not living up to the standards of your Mother or Mother-in-law.
- You are not condemned by the stares of those who have no kids when your kids erupt into volcanic screams in public places.

For all you Mom's – you are appreciated by your children even if they fail to tell you how much they appreciate you. You are loved by them even in the absence of that statement of love from them. Your “job” in life takes a back seat to no occupation no matter how important it may be labeled to be. The office of the President of the United States is said to be the most difficult and stressful job in the world. Since they have all been men up to this point – I dare say that when a Mom sits in that office it will be less stressful for her because she has raised teenagers!!

Mother's, though you may feel condemned by some, remember that you belong to God. Enjoy the relationship of a daughter that is loved with an unwavering love and affection from your Father in heaven.

For all you Mom's and Mom's to be, may God bless you in everything you do for your children. I hope you have a wonderful day today and many more to come.