

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:8-20

Mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled. —Emily Dickinson

How would we like God to mother us? What sort of maternal oversight do we prefer the Almighty to exercise over us?

Some of us are inclined to visualize God as the consummate helicopter parent: always hovering overhead, training a spotlight on us to highlight our misdeeds. This is a stern, judgmental ruler, the ultimate micromanager — surveying our lives with disapproval, swift to mete out punishment.

Yet, what if God relates to us in a very different way? What if God is more like Rabbi David Wolpe's concept of a *helium mom*, holding gently to the end of a string as we dance on the wind-currents?

Thankfully, God doesn't seem all that interested in micromanaging our lives. To the contrary, the Lord seems content to leave us alone for long periods, with only the lightest of tugs on the balloon string. Sometimes that touch is imperceptible, barely there. At other times — episodes of trouble or temptation, in particular — we may suddenly feel a strong pull on the line, calling us back into closer relationship.

Truth is, the Bible tells us how we want God to mother us. It tells us how we want God to take care of us.

With love, of course! But what kind of love?

A love that is specific to us. “You did not choose me but I chose you” (John 15:16).

A love that gives us a job. We loved it when mom gave us a job, didn't we? Our kids loved it when we gave them responsibilities, too. God has given us a job, or we might say, a mission.

A love in which we remain. “Now remain in my love” (v. 9). Jesus says we remain in his love when we obey his commands (v. 10).

A love that asks us to play nice and share. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (v. 12).

A love that is sacrificial. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life” (v. 13).

When we think about all that our mothers did for us, well ... it's amazing!

Is God's love any less? Did not God in Jesus Christ lay down his life for us?

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Prayer: Lord God, thank you for sharing your deep and incomprehensible love with me and for guiding me and instructing me in the way I should go. In your name. Amen.

*Happy Mother's Day!
Joe & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday: John 1-3

Monday: 1 Kings 1-4

Tuesday: 1 Kings 5-7

Wednesday: 1 Kings 8-10

Thursday: 1 Kings 11-13

Friday: 1 Kings 14-16

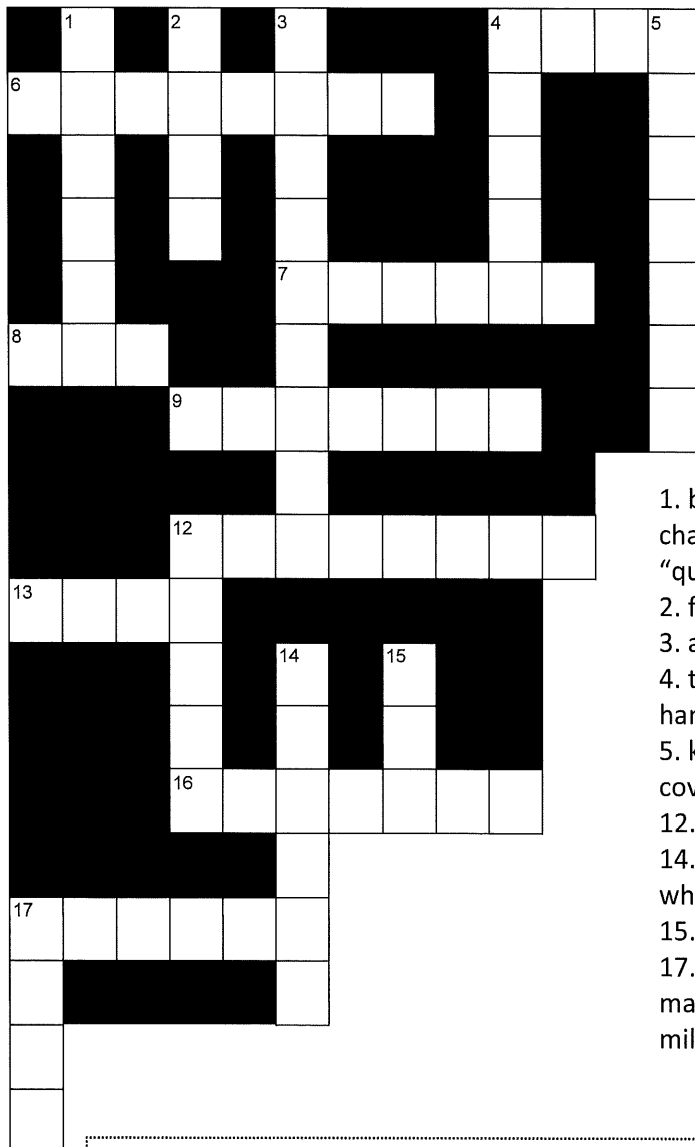
Saturday: Psalms 52-54

Honoring Mothers

Her children arise and call her blessed; ... many women do noble things, but you surpass them all ... a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

—Proverbs 31:28-30 (NIV)

The BABY Crossword



DOWN

1. baby who likes to chatter is said to be "quite a —"
2. from cows
3. a baby sits in this
4. to get about on hands and knees
5. knitted feet coverings
12. unconscious rest
14. what is changed when a baby is wet
15. a short rest
17. the sound a baby makes after drinking milk

ACROSS

4. small bed
6. binky
7. "From the ___ to the grave"
8. to sob
9. large cloth to keep baby warm
12. baby carriage
13. the dish baby eats out of
16. where baby plays
17. narrow-necked container of milk

Answers: Across — 4. crib, 6. pacifier, 7. cradle, 8. cry, 9. blanket, 12. stroller, 13. bowl, 16. playpen, 17. bottle. Down — 1. talker, 2. milk, 3. highchair, 4. crawl, 5. booties, 12. sleep, 14. diaper, 15. nap, 17. burp.