



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Mother’s Day: Designed for Destiny”

Lynette Lewis – May 10, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What’s your favorite memory of your mom?
- Tell us about a book or movie that you have watched recently and would recommend to the group.

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Lynette gives us a comprehensive way to think about the role of a mother. Motherhood is obviously about giving birth and raising a child. It also includes those who adopt; and those who step in for those who don’t have a mom present. Maternal love is from God and he uses it to shape our destinies. Lynette looks at three biblical stories, and shows how individuals put their faith in God to bring about the destiny of the children in their lives amid challenging circumstances.

Moses

Moses was born when the Pharaoh of Egypt made a decree to kill all the Hebrew sons at birth. Moses’ mom hid him with her for a few months. When she couldn’t any longer, she acted in faith to put Moses in a basket and sent him towards Pharaoh’s court. Moses’ sister stayed close to see what would happen to Moses. When Pharaoh’s daughter saw Moses, she had compassion for him. Moses’ sister suggested she hire a Hebrew to care for Moses. It turned out to be Moses’ mom, who raised him while Pharaoh claimed him as her son. Moses undoubtedly learned from his experience in Pharaoh’s house and the fact that he was a Hebrew. God used Moses’ experiences to equip him to bring deliverance to the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery. Does God use our experiences to equip us for bringing about his will just like he did for Moses?

Esther

Esther lived when the Persian kingdom ruled the land. She was an orphan, but her cousin Mordecai filled the role of mom and dad in her live. She found favor in the eyes of the Persian king and eventually became queen.

Esther had great respect for Mordecai and continued to take his advice while she was queen. Over time enemies of the Jews sought to annihilate them. By law, the king could have killed Esther because unless

you are called to the king, no one could approach him. God gives Esther favor, and through her actions the Jews were delivered from the hand of their enemy. Esther would not have acted on behalf of the Jews if it was not for her valuing the words of Mordecai. He helped her see being in the palace could have been to save the Jews. Being an orphan doesn't have to define someone's life. Just like God put Mordecai in Esther's life, God places people in our lives to fill the voids of physical, emotional or spiritual abandonment.

Naomi

Naomi abruptly became a widow and her two sons died. She was bitter after her loss, but her belief in the God of Israel attracted her daughter-in-law Ruth to stay with her. Ruth gained the favor of Boaz, who happened to be a relative of Naomi's husband. Boaz was a man of considerable means and married Ruth. Their marriage was significant for Naomi because God granted her a grandson who would continue her family legacy. Ruth named her son Obed in honor of Naomi. Obed is the father of Jesse, the father of King David. Even in the wake of tragedy, God can bring about restoration for our families.

Three Principles

These stories speak to three principles. The principle of destiny which is recognizing we are all on a journey that God planned before we were born. The role of a mother is influential in bringing our destiny to pass. The principle of difference is embracing that God's way of bringing about our destiny will look different than we anticipate; yet it will be better than we could ever imagine. The principle of decisions recognizes the impact of our choices. May we boldly make decisions based on faith in God, not on the perceived obstacles.

As we take steps in faith, we can trust that our destiny will not be forfeited because of challenging circumstances. Our God is great and will finish what he started. Let's rest in the truth that the destiny God designed for our lives and our children will come to pass.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Which biblical story from the viewpoint of maternal love do you relate to the most and why?
- Which of the three principles listed above resonates with you the most and why?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the maternal love that he has provided.
- Ask God for patience to wait on his plans to come to pass.
- Ask God for faith that is rooted in his Word, not in what we see with our natural eyes.