

Mother's Day, and Baptismal Day, Sermon

May 14th 2017 Warren Payne

' A MATTER OF THE HEART'

SERMON – PP Readings Luke 2: 15 – 20 and 2: 45 - 52

PP A Matter of the Heart - On TV, and in many schools, children are encouraged to save money.

Pictures of "Piggy Banks" are common when banks advertise savings accounts for children.

Most of us will have opened a savings account at some time in our lives.

When we open these accounts we always check the interest rates and decide accordingly. Some more wealthy people store their precious belongings like jewellery in special bank boxes that are inside the bank's vaults.

Today is Mother's Day, and also a day when 13 friends will be baptised.

For a few minutes today I would like us to think about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Mary did something that is a wonderful lesson for us today. Mary knew where to keep the most precious things in life. Not in a Piggy Bank or a bank safe box but 'in her heart'. For the heart is where we store memories and experiences.

For those of you being baptised today, I do hope you will treasure today in your heart, and that you will think about this special day often.

PP In Luke 2 verses 19 and 51 we read;

'Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.'

'And Jesus's mother stored all these things in her heart.'

Before and after the birth of Jesus what do you think Mary keep in her heart, and thought about often?

- The appearance of the angel Gabriel.
- The explanation of how the Holy Spirit would come on her and the baby would be conceived.
- That the baby would be a boy, who would be called the 'Son of God' and was to be named ' Jesus'.
- The encouragement of the example of Aunty Elizabeth having a baby in her old age.
- The promise of God that 'nothing is impossible'.
- The difficulty of trying to find an inn in Bethlehem, and then for the birth to take place in a stable!
- The visit of the shepherds and to hear that angels had appeared to them and told them that "The Messiah, The Lord" has been born in Bethlehem.

From **verse 51**, and 12 years later, when the family visited Jerusalem, what else did Mary store in her heart?

- The shock and fear of a missing child.
- Jesus was found with all the teachers of the law in the temple.

- Jesus words, "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"
Verse 50 tells us that they did not understand what he meant. **V51** ' But Mary stored these things in her heart'.

As we know from Scripture it wasn't until after the resurrection that Mary really understood all that had taken place over the 33 years of Jesus's life on earth. The things she had often thought about at long last made sense.

As a loving mother Mary, knew that the place to store what God showed her was in her heart. In life we may not understand everything that happens, but as God's children we do know He loves us and He will make, even the hard things in our lives, work for good.

PP Mary's life is a commentary of **Roman 8:28** :

' We know that God causes everything to work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.'

For those of being baptised today – Treasure this day in your heart, think often about it, and rejoice that you are a child of God.

PP Proverbs 4:23:

'Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.'

That's why is it so important for us to never forget what God has said to us?

In the business of life we tend to forget a lot of things, so to prevent forgetting what God has spoken to you, do what Mary did and think about it often.

Those of you who are being baptised please use your testimony often, in telling friends how you became a Christian. In times of personal doubt take out your testimony and re-read it and thank God for His work in your life. Thank God for answered prayer and help at times of difficulty.

- Think often about what God has said to you.
- Share your story often with friends.
- Memorise Bible verses – **Psalms 119:11**

' I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you'.

When God gives you a verse that is really meaningful, write it in your Bible or in a special note book, or put it up on your mirror or wall, so you can refer back to it often.

I don't know all that my mother kept in her heart about me, but I do know she prayed for me every day. The two greatest gifts a mother can give her child is love and prayer. This love and prayer for others flows from our own personal knowledge and love for God.

Mary did not understand **all** that she was being told about Jesus, but because she trusted God, it affected her lifestyle, her love for Jesus, even to the cross, where she witnessed her son's death.

What you allow into your heart and mind will control your life.

Don't allow the world and the things that displease God to come into your heart. Guard your heart from sin and thoughts that are not of God.

Mind control is real so we must not allow our minds to be filled with wrong thoughts and attacks of Satan. If we allow our minds to be filled with wrong thoughts it will affect our

prayer life, relationships with friends and with God.(HS will be upset)

So, what should we focus our thoughts on?

PP Philippians 4:8 gives us some of the answer. “**Fix** your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Let's all be thankful for our mothers. Let us be thankful for their love and care of us. And on this Mother's Day, personally say thank you to them for all they have done for us. Maybe before you became a Christian you have never thanked your mother, but now through God's love in your heart, make an effort to do that. Don't take your mother for granted.

Story: A Japanese young man, after believing, sent his mother a thank you card. It was the first time he had thanked her. She was so happy. She still has the card displayed and through it she has an open heart to learn about God.

PP One day a little boy and his mother were crossing a river.

Mother said – Please hold **my** hand

But the boy said – No, **you** hold my hand.

Mother said – What's the difference?

The boy said – If I hold your hand and something happens to me Chances are that I may let your hand go, but if you hold my hand...I know for sure **you** will never let my hand go!

PP At a time when God's people had begun to think that God had forgotten them, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah. God says: **(Isaiah 49:15)**

Can a mother forget her little child?

Can she feel no love for the child she has borne?

But even if that were possible.

I would not forget you.

- God is alive
- God speaks through His word
- God means what He says.

On this Mother's Day and Baptismal Sunday let's all make a conscious decision to be thankful, listen to what God says and keep His words in our hearts as we daily seek to please our Saviour Jesus Christ. – Prayer for Mothers