

Life Group Notes 5/11/2025

Pastor Mark Warren—Mothers' Day

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 5/11. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I often include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate and simplify the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote is:

1. [On Moses' and Aaron's parentage.](#)
2. [On a father's instruction and a mother's teaching.](#)

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Pastor's morning email contains the outline for today's word:

✿ How God gathers us close like a mother hen (Matthew 23:37) [37](#)*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling!* [38](#)*Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39**For I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'*

✿ Stories of **biblical moms** who shaped destinies

✿ A word of blessing for children to receive a mother's love

✿ Hope and comfort if this day is hard for you

He added a few ideas to the outline in person:

- ✕ Moms who are currently moms...
- ✕ Those who have been mentors and spiritual moms...
- ✕ Those who are wannabe moms...

✠ Those who, as a mother, have experienced loss this year...

He said, "This is your day. Today we will champion your cause, and your contributions with the Word of God, so you see that God's call on your life is real."

1. Do you fit in the list?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Do you have a "Mom" story.

He opens the message with the principle that, "Every woman is called to nurture, which is a super high calling. There is something placed in a woman that make them so much more apt to and capable of nurturing than we men."

1. List the qualities connected to the term "Mother."
2. Do you agree that a woman's call and her gift is to nurture? (Let women answer first.)
3. How does the concept strike you?
4. How does this concept strike the group? Make notes.

Look at the passage above from [Matthew 23](#).

1. What do you see?
2. What do you know about hens?
3. How does God nurture?

Examine the context of this passage. Just prior to saying this, He spoke of the frustration He has had through the ages in His attempt to draw the people to Him with kindness. [29](#)Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous. [30](#)And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' [31](#)So you testify against yourselves that you are the sons of those who murdered the prophets. [32](#)Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your fathers. [33](#)You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape the sentence of hell? [34](#)Because of this, I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and others you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town. [35](#)And so upon you will come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. [36](#)Truly I tell you, all these things will come upon this generation.

1. What do you see?
2. What are the dangers of being blind to history, as illustrated by the behavior of the Pharisees?
3. Describe God's patience as seen here?
4. What do teachers do?
5. What do prophets do? (Look up 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3-4. *1Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy 3But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edification, encouragement, and comfort. 4The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.*) What do you see?
6. How did God nurture Israel? Did He ever give up?
7. Why are prophets sent? To tear down or to build up? To condemn or to nurture?
8. Have you ever looked at OT prophets as comforters? Why or why not?
9. What has been Israel's historic response to God's patience?

10. Does the church do any better?

11. How is ignoring God's edification, exhortations and comfort like dropping a heavy rock on your finger, and pulling off the tip?

12. Pastor Mark's mother's response to this accident was to say, "I'm here. I'm here. We'll get through this." How often has God said the same thing to Israel? To you?

Pastor then opens up the offer, "I'm in awe of the design God has built into each of us, into the differences we all manifest. If you're here and you haven't seen this nurturing, you haven't received that comfort in difficult times; your Mom is gone and you need this kind of care, I want you to know, your father in heaven carries this nurturing care, this very purpose, close to His heart. Look at Malachi 3: 5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. And I will be a swift witness against sorcerers and adulterers and perjurers, against oppressors of the widowed and fatherless, and against those who defraud laborers of their wages and deny justice to the foreigner but do not fear Me," says the LORD of Hosts.

1. What do you see?
2. Whom is God for?
3. Whom is He against?

Look at another passage from Isaiah 1: 22 Your silver has become dross; your fine wine is diluted with water. 23 Your rulers are rebels, friends of thieves. They all love bribes and chasing after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, and the plea of the widow never comes before them.

1. What is the opposite of nurture?
2. What does nurturing do?
3. Why does God send prophets to Jerusalem...and to the church?

Pastor Mark took us to examine Isaiah 66: 10 Be glad for Jerusalem and rejoice over her, all who love her. Rejoice greatly with her, all who mourn over her, 11 so that you may nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you may drink deeply and delight yourselves in her glorious abundance. 12 For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flowing stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm, and bounced upon her knees. 13 As a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you, and you will be consoled over Jerusalem."

1. Look at this passage closely. How does this echo what Jesus said, mourning over Jerusalem in Matthew 23 above?
2. What does Isaiah say we have to look forward to?
3. How is Jerusalem like a mother?
4. Describe God's heart in this passage. How is the simile of a nursing mother apt to the pain we feel and the comfort we need when abandoned?
5. Have you ever seen a fussy baby comforted by the milk of his mother's breast?
6. Who designed that "superpower?" Why?

Examine Isaiah 40: 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. 11 He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. He gently leads the nursing ewes.

1. What do you notice?
2. What are the dual qualities Isaiah brings out here?
3. Who has the might and the powerful arm, distributing rewards?
4. Who gathers and comforts, tends and carries the weak and the young?

5. Which quality is more important, the maleness or the femaleness? Whose calling is higher?
6. (How does this question echo that foolish question the apostles asked so often: which of them was the greatest?)

Pastor taught the story of Maria, who taught young girls to make bread.

1. What did this make you think of?
2. Did anyone ever teach you to make bread? To sew? To knit/crochet?
3. Do you have a testimony?

On motherhood, Pastor Mark first spoke of Hannah, who was barren, living with a second spouse who produced many offspring. Look at her anguish in 1 Samuel 1: [10](#) *In her bitter distress, Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept with many tears. [11](#) And she made a vow, saying, “O LORD of Hosts, if only You will look upon the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, not forgetting Your maidservant but giving her a son, then I will dedicate him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall ever touch his head.”*

1. Describe the prayer in your own terms. What is involved?
2. What do the tears add? What does the longing add?
3. Knowing God as you do, what impact do your tears have on Him?
4. What does the vow add? To what degree is the vow a sacrifice?
5. How did her desire to bear a son change the nation of Israel in her day? In our day?
6. Mark describes Hannah’s determination as “so powerful...” Explain.
7. To what degree can mothers shape a nation?

He continued by looking at Jochebed, Moses’, Aaron’s and Miriam’s mother.

1. What do you know of her? (See [footnote 1, below](#) for a chance to win trivial pursuit.)
2. Look up Exodus 2: [1](#) Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, [2](#) and she conceived and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him for three months. [3](#) But when she could no longer hide him, she got him a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in the basket and set it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. [4](#) And his sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. [5](#) Soon the daughter of Pharaoh went down to bathe in the Nile, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. And when she saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maidservant to retrieve it. [6](#) When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the little boy was crying. So she had compassion on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrew children.” [7](#) Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” [8](#) “Go ahead,” Pharaoh’s daughter told her. And the girl went and called the boy’s mother. [9](#) Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages.” So the woman took the boy and nursed him. [10](#) When the child had grown older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses and explained, “I drew him out of the water.” List the risks Jochebed took to protect her son.
3. List the losses Jochebed faced. List the surprising serendipities.

4. Aaron was the firstborn son, and was not threatened by Pharaoh's demonic decree. Does this change your perspective on Jochebed's efforts to rescue her second son?
5. How do we know that God's promise extends to each one of your own children? (Hint: Moses was the second. David was the eighth, not the first.)
6. What were the consequences of this mother's dedication to her son's survival? Who benefited?
7. Who benefits from your dedication?
8. How does this prove that motherhood is a "high and holy calling," as Pastor Mark contends.

Mark next spoke to kids. "Your mom is your biggest champion. Don't push away the love she extends that shapes you. That love is strong."

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. Look at Proverbs 1: 8*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother.* 9*For they are a garland of grace on your head and a pendant around your neck.* What do you see?
3. How is a father's instruction different from that of a mother's teaching? (See [footnote 2 below](#) for a hint. The Hebrew is worth the visit.)
4. Describe the garland and the pendant you wear for this.

Pastor describes nurturing: "It is small faithful steps, repeated daily. It is not the big thing. It is in the intentionality of those small things."

1. Explain.
2. Pastor gave examples. Do you have any to add?

Here's his list:

- ✚ It starts when you start your day in prayer, praying for your family. You pray, contending that your children will understand God's nature, wisdom, God's very heart. Dedicate your children every day, as Hannah did, to the Lord.
- ✚ Speaking life with your words. Be determined to build up, and not tear down. To take the heart of the prophet as your own, edifying, exhorting and comforting with patience.
- ✚ Create a safe space. Let your home be a nurturing home where friends want to hang out. Teach them a skill that you have and enjoy. Open your home to the next generation. Listen to them and to their stories.
- ✚ If you don't have kids yet, allow yourself to be trained and prepared for this ministry of nurturing. Highlight scripture that instructs you on this path.
- ✚ Lean into God's strength. Nurturing comes with effort and willingness to grow, to know that when you don't have what it takes, you remain willing to press in, to learn and to...nurture.
- ✚ Celebrate the small wins. Don't miss the little things. Look at Zechariah 4: **9**"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you. **10**For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven eyes of the LORD, which scan the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel." In this passage, nothing has happened in the ruined city, but Zerubbabel, the son of David, has returned to Jerusalem with a plumbline. He is the builder, now equipped with a plumbline to build, and it is his to build. Watch

and celebrate progress. Express gratitude when you see someone walking in that calling. Celebrate every step, and especially every win.

Finally Mark prophesies to those for whom Mothers' Day is a challenge. "I want you to know that God gathers the brokenhearted under His wings. You are seen, you are loved, and you are held. He sees you today. He knows exactly what is on your heart, and He knows why today is so difficult for you. And God is that nurturing Father. He has that side to Him as well, and you need only come to Him to feel His care under the shelter of His wings." Look again at [Isaiah 40, above](#). Review Isaiah 42:3 "[A bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4He will not grow weak or discouraged before He has established justice on the earth. In His law the islands will put their hope.](#)"

1. What do you see? How does a mother's "teaching" ([footnote 2](#)) enter here? Does this help?
2. Mark says this is the heart of Jesus. It's God's heart. Explain.

Mark ended with these observations toward women:

- ✦ You carry this nurturing quality of God's image. Without you, it would not be known. God has placed this virtue uniquely inside of you, as a female.
- ✦ Embrace it.
- ✦ Share it.
- ✦ Do not give up, press in and walk in the holy calling.
- ✦ Find an avenue to pour your superpower into those on your path.
- ✦ Your love is powerful. Your call is sacred. Your impact is eternal, like Hannah and Jochebed. Pray and contend for those of your family who do not yet want to receive. Do not give up.

Mark offered up this blessing from Numbers 6: [24](#) *'May the LORD bless you and keep you; 25 may the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 may the LORD lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.'* [27](#) *So they shall put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.'*

1. He exhorted you to receive it. What does this blessing look like daily?
2. He then exhorted you to pray this over your family. What will change as you do?
3. Where else is this blessing needed?

Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. Write a note of affirmation and put it in your children's lunchbox...or find a way to send it to them.
3. Write yourself notes of reaffirmation, drawn from this week's SOAP notes.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

1. **On Moses' and Aaron's parentage**—Little known fun facts make pursuit of Biblical truth that much more satisfying...and sometimes strange. In Exodus 6:20 we read, "[20](#) And Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years." You can try to figure out the relationships, but this is how it boils down: "Jochebed, was a Hebrew woman living in slavery in Egypt before the exodus. She was the daughter of a Levite, and she

married Amram, another Levite (Exodus 2:1). According to Exodus 6:20, Jochebed married her nephew; thus, she was Amram's aunt as well as his wife." This would make Moses, Miriam and Aaron first cousins to their father as well.

2. **On a father's instruction and a mother's teaching**—Hebrew poetry is recognized worldwide, for the rich depth it provides in expression. One of the characteristics of Hebrew poetry is called, "poetic parallelism." "**Parallelism** is a key feature of **Hebrew** poetry, especially in the Book of Psalms. It involves repeating or balancing ideas across two or more lines to create rhythm and emphasis. This **poetic** structure helps convey deeper meaning and emotion." (https://www.sermoninfo.com/7-types-of-parallelisms-in-hebrew-poetry.html#google_vignette) JewishEncyclopedia.com puts it this way, "The **parallelism** is so inwrought in the nature of **Hebrew** poetry that it cannot be lost in translation; and to this fact is perhaps due not in a small measure the fact that the poetry of the Old Testament has become the common property of mankind." In this light, the Hebrew in Proverbs 1:8 is very interesting to look at. **8**Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother." Two different words are used, adding subtlety and shading to the gift each parent brings to the child. The father brings מוסר, *musar*, which means discipline, instruction, correction, chastisement, reproof, warning, instruction, restraint. The mother brings the תורה, the *Torah*, or the Law. It also means instruction, and teaching, a precept, or a statute. Seeing these two distinct words, can you define the role of each parent? Who puts down the law? Who enforces it? In terms of familial government, which is the legislative branch? Which the executive?
-

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Matthew 23:37-39
Tuesday: Numbers 6:24-27
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3-4
Thursday: Isaiah 42:3-4
Friday: Isaiah 1:22-23
Saturday: Isaiah 66:10-13
Sunday: Isaiah 40:10-11

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.