

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Pastor Gene Henderson with edits by Pastor Pier]

Most of what we know of Jesus' life has to do with His birth and last three years. We don't have much information about the intervening 30 years. We do know that He loved and respected His mother. Historians speculate that Jesus' father died early and that Jesus remained at home to help His mother provide for His siblings. If that happened, it isn't speculation to suggest that Jesus thought highly of His mother and that the townspeople respected Him for His actions. *Even today people highly respect that kind of commitment.*

Later, Jesus' mother encouraged Him to get His ministry started. And she didn't wait for Him to do it at the synagogue or Temple. She approached Him at a family event – a wedding celebration – and told Jesus the host family ran out of wine. Did she want Him to run to the market? No, and He knew it because He said, "*Mother, it is not yet My time.*"

She disagreed and told the servers, "*Whatever He tells you to do, do it.*" A few minutes later Jesus instructed the attendants to fill the pots with water and serve the guests. His family name wasn't Gallo, but given the reaction of the people, apparently, *He could have started a lucrative side business!* Jesus didn't want fame or money, but He clearly loved and honored His mother.

Three years later, suspended between heaven and earth, bleeding out on the hill of skulls, He looked down and saw His mother. Ever wonder what He thought? *Took care of her all those years and she has to face this? In Nazareth her reputation suffered because of Me and now the whole city, the whole country despises Me. What have I brought on My mother?* Summoning strength, He said to His friend, John, "*Treat her as if she were your very own mother.*" Catching His breath, He told His mother, "*He will be the son I can no longer be.*"

Did it matter? She went to the tomb to dress His body. He showed Himself to her after His resurrection. And she was among those in Jerusalem who received the Holy Spirit He promised to send. Yeah, it mattered. In some ways the resurrection was the quintessential **Mother's Day.**

In "*The Singer*" Calvin Miller wrote, "*If she has loved him, a man will carry anything for his mother – water pot or a world.*" **Jesus did!**

Happy Mother's Day



May 11th, 2025



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Prayer – every Sunday evening, from 6 – 7 here in the sanctuary. This is informal, come as you are for the time you are able. James 5:16 (ESV):

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Wednesday Bible Study – we continue our study of the Book of Ephesians.

Capital Section Spring Event – Ladies – May 17th, 10 AM to 2 PM. Location: Capital Church, 1222 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Niskayuna, NY. Cost is \$25 per person and must be in by April 27th. For more information see Caroline Zeyak.

Iron Sharpens Iron – Saturday, June 7 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:55 p.m., doors open at 7:30 a.m. @ Calvary Assembly of God, 960 Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill, NY 12043. The cost is of \$39 per man if we have 5 or more, payable by June 3rd. Students are \$25 each. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer so we can plan. This is a life changing event for our men, let us all plan to go.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor

Pastor's cell phone:
518.567.9788

Location & Mail: 292 Hays Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Office Telephone:
518.479.3439

Email:

pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org

Webpage:

<http://www.newlifeaogeg.org>

Guest Wi-Fi: NewLifeGuest –
password: NewLife292



SERMON NOTES

A MOTHER'S LOVE

TEXT: Matthew 20:20-23

She was certain that they would have positions of _____ and _____.

I. _____

A. Mothers pray out of _____.

Motherhood is not _____, but extremely _____.

B. Mothers pray out of the _____ of it all.

In the frustration of trying to _____ our children we realize the difficulties of _____.

What does it matter if they _____ the whole world, but _____ their souls?

II. _____

It begins with mothers and fathers setting the _____ and _____ that their sons and daughters might be involved in the _____ of the kingdom.

III. _____

- Too often we have _____ for mediocrity in the church.
- For too long we have been _____ with just barely making it through the door.
- For too long we have been _____ to sit back and let things happen.

It is time to strive for _____ – to reach for the very _____ there is.

It is a love that goes through the valley of the shadow of _____ to bring _____ into being.