

Unhappy Mother's Days
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This one is for women of all ages. If you are a woman, and you can read, please take the time to read this.

I know it's not necessarily a good thing to say, but I'll say it anyway. While celebrating and honoring mothers is good thing, Mother's Day is a painful day for some. We don't have the time and space for going into all the reasons. It's enough to realize that Mother's Day is quite difficult for quite a few.

For those who understand what I mean, I have a couple of suggestions that might help the day be a little easier. Stay off social media. Facebook and Twitter and Instagram will be full of photos of smiling mothers and their grateful children. Flowery words and emotions will flood cyber space. Don't go there. It will just make you feel worse.

Honor those who have been instrumental in your life. Has a teacher inspired you? Has someone stepped into the role of mother for you? Have you become a mother figure to someone in need? Honor those people and relationships. Vocally share your gratitude with them. It will make you feel better.

Study the grace and wisdom of the good mothers in the Bible. Is there a woman you know who has the noble character spoken of in Proverbs 31? Is there a woman you know who has displayed a life-long desire to be obedient to God? Someone who has recognized, like Hannah, that her children belong to God more than they belong to her?

Take the lessons of these Biblical mothers and apply them to yourself. Let Rebekah warn you about playing favorites with your children. Let Sarah's exuberant joy upon becoming a mother fill your own heart boundless joy. Let Mary's humility in extraordinary circumstances inspire you to become a willing servant for God. Let Eunice's sincere faith seep into the lives of others as it did into her son, Timothy.

Finally, reflect on the life of Tabitha, also called Dorcas. We don't know if she was a mother, but we know that she did ordinary things in extraordinary ways. She was a seamstress, making garments of warmth and comfort from the cold coastal winds of Joppa. She gave these garments to the widows, a group of women every society seems to neglect. After her death, when she was being deeply mourned, Peter cleared the room to pray for her. Then he said, "Tabitha, get up!" And she did! Because of this miracle, many people in Joppa believed. Many were led to a faithful rebirth because of Tabitha's own faith and rebirth.

So, women, think about what kind of woman you wanted and needed in a mother, and become that kind of woman. Meditate on the good examples of motherhood in the Bible, and make yourself into that kind of woman. Be a mother to the motherless. Be thankful for your mother and the "other mothers" in your life, and strive to fill a "mother need" in those who need "mother love."

Make the most of Mother's Day. I know you can, and I know it will make you feel better.