

May 10th 2009: Mother's Day: Divine Mothering: Luke 13:22-35

Just recently I read a Christian book.....controversial

It's a work of fiction called **THE SHACK**

It's the story of a man whose daughter has been murdered

He is angry, bitter, and hostile towards God....**and altho** his wife still has....a loving

He doesn't-----→Then God sends him a letter

He travels to this shack which is way out in the wilderness

And there he meets with the God....in the physical form of 3→with the Trinity

But it's here that the controversy begins

Because God the Father is revealed to Him as an large black woman...a mother
tells him to call her **papa**

Now as you can imagine.....It's here than some have a huge problem

God has revealed Himself to us as Father.....**Jesus** calls Him.....and tells us

We know that: →**He is Spirit.....and as such is neither male nor female....**

But the Scripture always refers to Him as The Father.....never as **The Mother**

So—how dare this man present God in form of a Mother!!! **Put the book down**

But when you continue.....**You** discover that at the very end....

God changes His outward appearance.....**He** becomes very much a Father

The strong out door type...wise older man

And through the story....it has become clear.....**that Mack** had huge problems

Relating to God as Father.....**His own father**

At that time what needed most.....was to sense the **Mothering** characteristics of

It's the Mothering characteristics of God.....that Jesus referred to in the passage...

In Luke 13:34

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Jesus is reacting to some Pharisees..... Who wanted Him to leave that area....
Limited power over Him.....**and to** move into other areas of Judea...esp Jerusalem
Where they could arrange His ultimate death

He saw them as representing the people of Jerusalem

People who were so sure of their own righteousness

People who were so independent ...**Who** didn't want a God who called them sinners

People in rebellion against the Saviour of the world

- **To such Jesus**speaking on behalf of the Godhead....tells how God yearns
To be to them like a mother hen is to her chickens

To protect them.....to give them safety and security.....**to forgive** and have
compassion.....**To bring** them back to where they belong.....

YET THEY WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT

- **We find the same mothering characteristic of God....**
as applied to the children of....recorded by Moses in **Deut 32:9-11**

"For the people of Israel belong to the Lord...He found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland. He surrounded them and watched over them; He guarded them as He would guard His own eyes. Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions."

There is no other way to interpret this passage than to acknowledge....

Its author is picturing **God as a brooding mother eagle**
protecting her frightened chicks....carrying her children safely on her wings.

That is a description of God,..... interacting.....protecting..... providing and
nurturing God's children...the Israelites, us!

I read somewhere that a female eagle is one-third larger than the male eagle, which enables her to spread her massive wings over the eaglets to protect them. She spends the most time on the nest once the chicks have hatched, and her alertness and speed assure that no predator will touch the eaglets under her watchful eye.

What a beautiful, powerful image of mothering care!

1. So we discover that our God

Yearns for the most rebellious of us.....**to be drawn** back into His love and care
With that special....acceptance of us.....however we come back

And that I see as the way most mother's act too

When a child has rebelliously left.....**I normally** find both parents strongly desiring
And both want the child to learn from.....**& to** return with remorse and repentance

Yet I always seem to see in the mother.....a slightly diff priority to the Father

She wants the child back.....whatever.....

It is the Father who wants to see....some evidence

2. And we also see our God.....

hovering over our lives like a Mother does over her children

Never letting us out of His sight.....

Always there to comfort us when we hurt.....Pick us up when we fall....Encourage

And at times lovingly discipline.

• **God knew that we needed**to relate to Him as Father

But it's so important that we see within Him.....**those** special characteristics
...of a mother.....**honed to perfection**

Because at times we all need to know.....**that God loves** us as a Father

With the depth of love.....of caring.....of gentleness that we associate with

.....the love we crave from a perfect mother

In Isaiah chapter 49:14....We read about some of God's people.....
who were saying about the Lord

**"The LORD has forsaken me,
the Lord has forgotten me."**

And that may be what you have thought at times....as you've gone thro suffering

And the Lord responded to them with these words:

**"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;"**

God is so perfect in His love for you.....because He responds to you
.....with the love of Father.....**and with** the love of a Mother

And He loves you in that way....whether you have responded to Him or not
Upon His hands He has engraved you.....For as God the Son He died ...

And with characteristic love of a mother....
He wants all His children to be safe in that love

You Mothers know that feeling

That's why he calls us all to open our hearts to Him
To come to Him and trust in Him
To bring our burdens to Him....and open our hearts to him

For none other can ever care for us.....like our wonderful God cares

Max Lucado story of Christina.....with story of Prodigal son

