



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Mother, Mother I am Sick

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As an old rhyme goes, mothers are the persons that come to mind during our sickness. Having a godly mother assures us that everything will be fine. A godly mother has one basic characteristic that pleases God: her unshakeable faith. She also intercedes and influences her children in living a life according to God's plan; it is a life guided by godly wisdom.

1. The noteworthy mothers in the bible

- 1.1. **Mother Mary (Lk. 1)** She has been highly favored by God because she is the mother of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ. Her obedience to God's plan has participated/presupposed in the reconciliation and conversion of the world. Her humility and poverty have not limited God in choosing her to share the gospel. In the same way, we should not limit God in choosing us as sharers of the gospel too.
- 1.2. **Lois and Eunice (2 Tim. 1: 3-5)** Both women influenced St. Timothy in having a genuine faith, and for that St. Paul highly commended them.
- 1.3. **Jochebed, Moses' mother (Ex. 1)** Moses' parents came from the line of Levitical priests. His mother through faith built a basket in order to save him from pharaoh's wrath. Indeed, his mother's faith in God set God's plan in motion - Israel's Exodus to the promised land.
- 1.4. **Canaanite mother (Mt. 15:21-28)** She was a desperate mother who sought Jesus, not for herself but for her daughter. Surprisingly, she did not ask for the whole bread, but only for a crumb of God's mercy. She knew that her daughter needed a supernatural healing, a kind of healing that only Jesus Christ could give. In Christ's presence, she came, called and consequently cried.

2. **The obstacles of Faith (Mt. 15:23-27)** The mother needed the healing of her daughter and overcame all these obstacles, based on -
 - 2.1. **Race/ancestry.** She was a non-Israel and considered an enemy of the Jews.
 - 2.2. **Religion.** Her descendants were known for their vile religion of strange gods.
 - 2.3. **Racism.** She felt discriminated from the disciples and the crowd who sought Jesus.
 - 2.4. **Rejection.** Jesus Christ rejected her request. It is assumed that our Lord had his reasons: to test her faith, and her full expression of faith, to lead her to saving faith, to teach true faith to his disciples and see his disciple's reaction, and to let this woman be an exemplary model of faith in Him.
 - 2.5. **Reality.** Her case was a real case of hopelessness.
3. **The Mother's prize** "Without faith, it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). Jesus Christ was amazed by her faith in opposition to the Jewish scribes and skeptics. Her faith healed her daughter in the hour granted by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

The persistence and the strong faith of the mother in Jesus Christ's healing power proved that there was no boundary nor limit of God's mercy. The love of the mother for her daughter overcame the obstacles they faced, and they discovered that God has been ready to help anyone who will put his/her trust in the Lord.

Reflection:

1. How does faith help your journey with God?
2. What are the ways your mother has influenced your faith? In what ways do you express your faith to Jesus Christ?

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