

Mother's Day 2024 **Luke 1:26-37**

Being a mother today is a tough job & we recognize that.
But as hard as it is we need to realize that difficulties are not unique to our time.

Consider Mary, the mother of Jesus.

I. THE DIFFICULTIES MARY FACED

A. First of all, she faced the difficulty of a tarnished reputation.

Mary was pregnant out of wedlock and the gossip flourished!

In fact, 30 years later Jesus enemies said to Him,

"We are not illegitimate children." **John 8:41**

B. Secondly, Mary experienced the difficulty of poverty.

When Jesus was brought to the Temple as a baby for the first time,
Joseph & Mary offered 2 doves, the sacrifice of the very poorest in society.

But they were rich in what would last forever & ever.

Love – integrity – loyalty – Humility

C. Another difficulty Mary experienced was being a single mom.

Although there is no mention of Joseph's death in the Bible.

The last time Joseph is mentioned was when Jesus was 12 years old. **Luke 2:48-51**

II. CONSIDER THE RESOURCES MARY HAD

A. Her first resource was a strong commitment to doing God's will.

Mary knew by giving birth to Jesus she was doing God's will.

*"Every mother has the breath-taking privilege of
sharing with God in the creation of new life."*

B. Her Second resource was a supportive husband. **Matthew 1:24**

Men, the best thing you can give your wife, the mother of your children, today is,
to be supportive of her, pray for her, encourage her, & always be there for her.

C. A third resource was a close friend who encouraged her. **Luke 1:42-45**

Mary and Elizabeth spent about 6 months together - encouraging one another.

III. THE REWARDS MARY EXPERIENCED

Mary was rewarded for her faithfulness as a mother.

1. She was there to see Jesus resurrected from the dead.

2. She lived to see her other children accept Jesus as Messiah & Lord.

And the God who rewarded her has promised to reward us.

God bless you on this very special day.