



Story time with Rebekah (for the kids and kids at heart!) <https://www.wevideo.com/view/1690102906>

Do you think God cares about us honoring our mothers?

Soon is Mother's Day. This means that many of us would ordinarily get together with our mothers to celebrate their lives and thank them for their faithfulness. Ordinarily, but not this year. Those of us who can't be with you our mothers will probably call on the phone, Skype, or Facetime.

Some say that more people are on the phone on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year? In addition to thanking our mothers, taking them out for a meal, and giving them a card, many of us would ordinarily also go to church with them. Ordinarily, but not this year. According to our stats, Mother's Day has a higher church attendance than just about any other Sunday of the year. Some surveys place it right behind Christmas and Easter.

Some churches ordinarily make a big deal of Mother's Day. Ordinarily, but not this year.

When I first began serving as a Pastor, I encountered a tradition that was saying almost nothing about Mother's Day, because "it's not a Christian holiday." Indeed, I checked it, it doesn't show up in the liturgical calendar. But, beyond this fact, I believe any day is worth celebrating mothers or fathers or others. I think any day is a good day to give thanks to God for the people in my life, this week it is my mother who prays for me daily, while I give thanks also to you.

And so, there is Psalm 128. Though it actually speaks more to Father's, reflecting the culture, this text celebrates the blessing of family, in which

mothering is without doubt central. The final verse adds this wish prayer:
"May you live to enjoy your children's children."

This Psalm, like the whole of God's word to us, doesn't divide life up into different spheres, the spiritual and non-spiritual parts. All of life is a result of God's good creation. All of life matters to God and should matter to us. All of life's goodness is worthy of celebration, as we thank God for his manifold gifts found in ordinary people, special to us people, and our neighbor who too is part of God's good creation.

So, let me say on behalf of all men, even those who are reluctant to admit it, we need our mothers and they are a gift to us. At times, these are our birth mothers, other times these are mothers who helped us in our "second" birth, like mother Teresa.

Ordinarily, we would have a small token of appreciation for you all. Ordinarily, but not this year. This year, we have a surprise waiting for you all when we return as God's people to celebrate His faithfulness when we gather for worship, to offer thanks and prayers once again.

Your friend

Manfred