

“A Mother’s Compassion”

Psalm 103:8-14; Matthew 9:35-37

May 12, 2024 – *Mother’s Day*

Introduction

- As good as fried chicken is, believe it or not, there is a way to bake chicken that makes it taste even better.
 - * That’s not a lie. And this is coming from someone trained in the culinary arts.
 - * Now, I know you think I’m lying but it’s true. My mom’s Baked Chicken is better than fried.
- Story
 - * Dad needed to lose a few pounds so Mom stopped frying chicken.
 - Which was a shame because it was really good.
 - * Anyway, Mom switched to baking chickens.
 - The first few weren’t really good. Edible but nothing to write home about.
 - * Then, she got it locked it.
 - Finger licking good baked chicken, I’m not kidding.
- Moms know exactly what to provide and adjust as the situation warrants.
- Bridge to God – God provides.

Genesis

- Obviously, beginnings are important.
- What we find at the beginning of Genesis is a systematic accounting of how God created the universe.
 - * But, right at the outset, it begs the question, WHY?
 - * WHY did God create?
 - We can’t answer that fully but we can definitely see that creation is linked with us.
 - We are created.
 - But, beyond that, ALL OF THIS was created for us.
- The story in Genesis goes from creation to delegation.
 - * That’s right, look closely at Genesis one and you’ll find that the whole introductory narrative ends with God granting us stewardship over all creation.
 - * All of the things necessary for robust survival are here on Earth.
 - * Now, imagine, they might not have been.
- God provides us through the Earth with everything we need
 - * Food
 - * Shelter
 - * Medicines are manufactured from the stuff of this earth that we now can create.
 - * Each other
 - This isn’t a solitary existence.
 - We NEED other people to both survive and to thrive.

Ron’s Mom

- My friend Ron – UBER genius
- Kind of eccentric but not in a terrible way, it just took a little to get used to his candid honesty.
 - * The dude just tells no lies. It’s part of his way. He’s not being mean; he just doesn’t understand like human conventions.
- Anyway, Ron’s Mom knew what he was like.
 - * She met a girl through and just knew, this was the one for Ron
 - * Problem -Ron didn’t want a girlfriend.
 - My understanding is that Ron’s Mom spent years arranging for the two to be together at events and such.
 - It eventually “took”.
 - They’ve been married a decade now and have kids younger than ours.
 - * He started even later with family than I did.

- God knows we need people.
 - * **Genesis 2:18** – *“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”*
 - * God knew right at the beginning we needed others.
 - Makes sense.
 - God is social, triune, three persons, one God.
- So, God gave us families.
 - * These are blessings.
- God in Christ also provided us with our church families.
 - * Jesus, drawing together a band of followers, sent them on a mission, to convert the world to faith in the Lord.
 - That mission is still ongoing; we are a part of it.
 - And to that end, we get this wonderful family of faith which provides for us so richly when times are difficult.

Forgiveness

- What we need the most.
- Green disc story.
 - * Lost a friend who had just moved away.
 - * A cat we’d tried to adopt was causing me too many asthma problems and we’d just had to give it away.
 - * Mom knew my heart was hurting and she didn’t drop the hammer.
 - She knew what I needed most to turn around wasn’t condemnation, it was forgiveness.
- Sound familiar?
 - * **Romans 5:8** - *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
 - * Jesus died on the cross to ensure salvation for us.
 - The penalty of sin is gone.
 - By the waters of your baptism, you are REALLY FORGIVEN!
 - * That means that your life isn’t just a collection of mistakes and errors, it is instead a blessed, abundant life.