The SIMPLE Life (Mother’s Day 2016)

2 Corinthians 11:3
3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Karl Barth, the Swiss theologian,
- who refused to surrender his faith during the Nazi era,
  - was asked in his later years
  - by an American audience
    - to summarize the gist of his enormous books on theology.
- This learned scholar paused for a moment
  - then summed up the entirety of Christian theology
    - with the words of a simple Sunday School song:
      - "Jesus loves me, this I know,
      - for the Bible tells me so."

What he was saying is that
- when you cut to the chase,
- when you get down to the heart of the matter,
  - everything gets real simple.
    - Jesus loves me.
- Even now, it almost seems too simple.
  - The answer almost seems too shallow.
    - That is because we seem to be wired for the complex.
- We like to complicate things.
  - Our minds want to wrestle with a thing
    - and look at it from all the different angels
    - and reason out the complex minutia of it.
- That’s why we can write volumes of books
  - on God’s relationship to humanity
    - when it really all boils down
      - to the words of a Sunday School Song.
        - Jesus loves me, this I know,
        - for the Bible tells me so.

This morning for just a moment
- I want to interrupt your busy, complicated lives
  - and remind you of the simplicity of serving God.
- It’s a simple subject,
  - it’s not complex at all,
    - but the truth of the matter is
      - that it is the simple things
        - that often become a stumbling block
          - to our complicated minds.
• God loves you.
  o He loves you so much
    ▪ that he laid down his life for you.
  o He loves you with a love
    ▪ that is beyond your understanding.
  o His love for you will not change,
    ▪ no matter what you do.
  o His love for you will not fade,
    ▪ no matter how far from him you may go.
  o His love for you is deeper than the ocean,
    ▪ higher than the mountain
    • and wider than the great big blue sky.
    ▪ Jesus loves you.

Today is Mother’s Day and it is quite appropriate, today of all days,
• to remember the simplicity of a Mother’s love.
  o A mother loves unconditionally.
    ▪ A mother loves her children
    • no matter what they do,
    • where they go,
    o or what kind of trouble they get into.

This morning, in the deepest darkest prison in the world,
• there sits a man who has committed some vile crime.
  o But, just as surely as the criminal sits behind bars,
    ▪ the outcast of society,
  o somewhere this morning,
    ▪ there is a mother who still loves him.
• It doesn’t matter what he has done.
  o It doesn’t matter what laws he has broken.
    ▪ None of that matters at all.
• What matters is that he is her son
  o and she loves him with a love
    ▪ that will not quite,
    • no matter what.
• That’s the simple nature of her love.
  o Its not complicated at all.
    ▪ She loves with her whole heart
    • and her whole life.

Jesus specifically referenced the love of a Parent, in Matthew Chapter 7,
• and challenged us to see that the love of God
  o is even greater than the love of a parent.
    ▪ God loves you that much and more!
• He loves you when you don’t deserve it.
He loves you when you haven’t earned it.
  - He loves you with a love that will not quite,
    - no matter what.
- You need to remind yourself, this morning:
  - Jesus loves me, this I know,
    - for the Bible tells me so!

My chief aim on this Mother’s Day morning,
- is to cut through the chaotic schedules,
  - the weariness and busyness that crowds our days,
    - to get past the tiredness and fatigue
      - of your daily routine,
  - and to remind you of the simplicity
    - that is in Jesus Christ.
- We all work hard
  - and we all keep hectic schedules,
    - though I would dare say that none of us
      - is as busy
      - as the mothers among us.
- So, Mom’s can I remind you this morning
  - of what really matters in life?
    - It is the simple things that matter most.
      - It is the simple things that will last for eternity.
- Simple things like gathering your family together
  - in the house of God
    - on a Sunday morning
      - and worshiping together.
- Simple things like helping
  - that precious little one
    - memorize the word of God,
      - hiding it away in their heart
        - so that it will keep them
          - and guide them
            - all the days of their lives.
- What matters most in life, mommy,
  - is that your precious little ones learn
    - to love and cherish the house of God.
- What matters most in life
  - is that they learn,
    - from the earliest of ages
      - about the great love of God
        - and the unfathomable grace of God.
  - What matters most is that it gets
• instilled into their hearts:
  • Jesus loves me, this I know,
  o for the Bible tells me so.

• I want to remind you of the simple delight
  o of seeking first the kingdom of God
  • and trusting him to take care of your needs
  • and even provide some of your wants.

• I want to remind you of the simplicity of hope.
  o Hope is the byproduct of trusting in the Lord.
  • It is that simple.
    • Simple faith in God
    o brings hope to hopeless situations.
  o I know its simple minded,
    • but we should hope more
    • and worry less.
  • We should trust more
    • and fret less.
    o That is the simplicity that is in Christ.

In our text this morning,
• Paul writes to the church at Corinth
  o and expresses his concern
    • that the enemy of their soul
    • would lure them away from
      o the simplicity that is in Christ.

• That their minds would be corrupted,
  o that the simplicity of living for God
    • would become twisted
      • into something complex
    o and difficult to navigate.
  o That’s the business of Satan.
    • He puts up roadblocks between you and God.
      • Sin separates you from God
    o and guilt and condemnation
      • drive you away from God.

• This morning, the simplicity that is in Christ
  o stands opposed to the complexity
    • that exists everywhere in our lives.

I believe that God is calling you,
• that he is beckoning each and every one of us,
  o to stop for a moment,
  o on this beautiful Sunday morning.
and remember the simplicity
• of walking with Him.
• The simplicity of serving him.
  • The simplicity of being
    o in fellowship with him.
• When did our lives get so complicated
  • that we no longer have time for Him?
    o When did our days get so busy
      • that there is no room for him.
• It appears that we have abandoned
  o the simple life
    • and have embraced the chaos and confusion
      • of constant busyness.
• But the truth of the matter is
  o that we are no different than our ancestors of old.
• When they first felt the guilt
  o and the condemnation of their failure,
    • Adam and Eve hid
      • from the presence of God.
• I am afraid that many of us are still hiding from God
  o We do it in a different
    • but no less meaningful way.
  o No, we don’t conceal ourselves among the shrubs,
    • instead we fill our days
      • with countless distractions,
      • keeping our minds so occupied
        • that we don’t have time
          • to really contemplate the person
            • that the grace of God
              • is calling us to be.

But there is a spiritual invitation going forth in this house today.
• It is an invitation to a place of rest and refreshing,
  o an invitation to dwell
    • in the secret place of the most high
      • and to delight in the wonders of his presence.
• God is calling each of us today
  o back to the simplicity that is in Christ.

• This morning we want our mothers to know
  o that you are simply the best.
  • But we also want you to understand
    • that the best things in life are simple.
• I want to humbly remind you:
Jesus loves me! This I know, 
- For the Bible tells me so.
  - The love of God
    - is the best part of your life.
- The songwriter goes on to say:
  - Little ones to Him belong;
    - They are weak, but He is strong.
- Do you hear that, momma?
  - We can’t always be with our kids.
- We won’t always be able to watch
  - every moment of their lives
    - to protect them from every danger
      - that might arise.
  - But little ones belong to him.
    - They weak but He is strong.
      - Oh the simplicity of trusting Jesus!
    - He loves me.
    - And he loves my kids!

CLOSE

- Could I ask you to stand with me this morning.
  - Moms I want you to gather your family around you.
    - Let me lay this simple charge upon you.
  - You have been loved with an unfathomable love.
    - Show that kind of love to your family.
  - You have received undeserved mercy,
    - show that kind of mercy to the ones you love.
  - You have been forgiven,
    - when you did not deserve it.
      - Teach your family how to forgive others
        - whether they deserve it or not.
  - God has made a way
    - for us to live in the simple beauty
      - and soul satisfaction
        - of a relationship with him.
          - Show us the way!
          - Teach your kids
            - the simplicity that is in Christ.
          - Share with them
            - the simple wonder
            - of living for God.

- Mom’s often lead the charge
  - In the busyness of our lives.
    - I want to appeal to our Mothers this morning:
• *Lead us into the simplicity of serving God.*
  - Let your life
    - And the testimony that you leave behind,
    - Challenge your family,
      - Particularly your kids
    - To love and cherish the simplicity that is in Christ.