

Daily Devotional, May 14, 2021, Mother, Protector, & So Much More

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing!” Matthew 23:37 (NIV)

In the above verse, we read how our Lord wanted to gather His chosen people and protect them in a most powerful way. A way that mimicked the ways of a mother hen. Jesus was conveying to us that He desperately wanted to offer His gift of salvation to the unbelieving masses throughout Israel. Christ models love along with patience, long-suffering, mercy, grace, intercession and discipline in the ways of prayer. All of these attributes that we see in women in our lives, and for some of us, including me, we see them in the mothers we have been blessed to have.

Christ's love, patience and intercession are things we can at times rely upon from afar or even see in print and then go on about our day. However, when we are confronted with some of these attributes in our mothers or wives, we see Jesus modeled right before us. I admittedly have tested the limits of all of these traits with my mother, and in retrospect, I know she had to be in fervent prayer just to survive all the challenges I presented to her. I am thankful for the patience she showed to me as I interacted with my family, even though they presented no challenges to her compared to my formative years.

From behind the parental veil, I have seen these same traits exhibited by my wife who is an incredible mother to our two children. I have been blessed to witness how her loving-kindness had been shown to those entrusted with our children's care and education, and I have seen her exhibit the kind of advocacy and intercession on their behalf that any of us would be blessed to have. Her modeling of Jesus in one of the scenarios where she carried this advocacy out led to a great change in both the education and growth of both of our children growing up, and without her steadfastly holding to what she knew to be right, things would be markedly different for my family right now. Laura's ardent protection of the path of her children reflected the same love Christ has for us, He wants to make our ways straight and train our eyes upon Him.

I have been blessed by my own Mother who introduced me to the Church and prayed it would become a vital part of my life. Also, I have been heartened and awed by the strength, love and grace that my wife has shown and continues to show as a mother and wife. With me and our two adult children. (Dustin, 30, and Natalie, 26), just by our very nature, we test her on all of these wonderful attributes. But although we are past Mother's Day, let us not forget the wonderful and powerful women in our lives. Let us thank God for the influence they have on us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Bless every other and every grandmother with your most special spiritual blessings today. Confirm in their hearts, and spirit the work of her hands and the love that she has so freely given to those children under Your care. Validate her worth daily so she has no reason to doubt whether she is loved, valued, and cherished in the eyes of her Heavenly Father and among all of us. In the righteous name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen..