
A Mother's Love—1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a

Today is Mothering Sunday and is just 3 weeks before Easter Sunday. So in our worship today as we think of mothers – of what they mean to us or have meant; as we think of mothers and of those denied its joy; above all, we meet to think of God and of the wonderful love for us that took Jesus to the cross and raised Him from the dead, to reflect also on what we can learn of Him partly from the relationship between a mother and a child. We focus today on those who gave us birth and to respond also to the one who offers new birth and life to us all.

Few words crop up more in terms of the Christian faith than “love”, but what does it mean? Many things but the love of God for us has a special intensity; a love that is nowhere glimpsed better than in the relationship between a mother and a child,

At weddings, I often use Paul’s words about the wonderful love that is our confidence as followers of Jesus that we should aim to reflect, albeit dimly, in the love that binds members of a human family. *Love* is a fairly easy word to say but to live out and apply is more difficult. It is more than sexual attraction, emotions or feelings. Marriage and the love should bind a family is not about getting for ourselves but about giving – And God gave of Himself when He gave Jesus to suffer and die for us. Love is about commitment – God’s commitment to us - Grace.

Reflection 2: God's Love and Life on Offer—John 3: 1-19

As we hopefully but cautiously emerge from lockdown, have we grasped what Jesus told Nicodemus? Words familiar to Church goes but often harder to grasp & accept & then share—the vital truth of God’s redeeming love & work in Jesus, the good news of God’s healing forgiveness, His love & His life offered to all who would receive it through Jesus.

Nicodemus – a top Pharisee – religious, pious, desperate to fulfil requirements of Old Testament law – came to Jesus *at night* because recognises that Jesus is sent from God. *No one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again. How? How* can an adult be born again? Nicodemus doesn’t seem to grasp what Jesus was telling him – yet! But later, argues for fair treatment of Jesus – don’t condemn but first hear Him & find out what He has done - (John 7:50f) & after the crucifixion, with Joseph of Arimathaea, helped prepare Jesus’ body for burial (John 19:39f.)

and this secret conversation with this secret enquirer/disciple, only able to be written down later by John in his gospel, because Nicodemus. must have told Him when he became part of the first church.

