

A Mum's Mission

LK 2:16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

What is the mission of a mum? What is a mum's mission in life? I think it is to do the best they can for their husbands and kids In Marianne's case - all three of them, Jackson, Flynn AND John. but it is also to do the best they can for God. This all sounds too hard. In our house - The boys muck up, all three of us. Life is extremely busy, John works funny hours, the boys wake up at funny hours, when Marianne is trying to sleep the kids get up or the dog barks, I don't hear anything – literally! Or they do what kids do and make a mess. Or should I say we do what we do and make a mess.

But I remember them when they were born, Jackson and Flynn They were so cute and vulnerable, I still think they are excessively cute, however I may be biased!! But I didn't know what to do with them, I'm a bloke – and I started being a Dad real late I was forty something. Marianne on the other hand – just knew how to be a mum – like it was her mission in life. These precious little ones were given to us to look after. I love them dearly but it is a lot of work and Marianne fulfills most of that. Mum's do most of that. Mary did that with Jesus.

Even Mary had that with Jesus, This little being in her arms, she knew He was different but still so little and I dare say she thought he was cute, I've never really thought of God being cute before but lets face it all mums think their children are cute. Mary's mission was to care for the Son of God, what a huge job.

How does that reflect on me? Our job is to care for the people we have been entrusted with. As Mum's and dad's and grandparents and brothers and sisters and friends. This is a huge job and it can be daunting at times.

I guess Mary had to contend with all the things regular mums have to contend with. Sleepless nights, dirty nappies and loads of washing.

Notice the big thing here. **She treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.** She treasured them – kept them close, made them valuable to her, but also notice she pondered them.

We all treasure our children, but do we ponder them. Well, Marianne and I wonder what goes on in those brains sometimes, but one thing I think we need to do is dwell on them.

We have a slightly different situation than most, and we not only ponder but ask why? We don't know – we have had no answer to that question. It plays on our heart, we question God – He chooses not to answer that one as yet.

Maybe the best way to ponder is to pray.

Did Mary pray for Jesus?

I asked someone that question a couple of weeks ago – they said “Yes – it's a mum thing.”

What did she pray for, after all she was one of the few people who had any inkling of how special Jesus was at that time. Actually she may have been the only one who really knew.

Maybe we need to ponder who our children are, who they will be and who they could be.

Then pray through those ponderings.

My mum would come in of a night when I was in bed and pray for me and with me. I know that she still prays for me everyday and for that I am very thankful.

Lets look at another few verses:

LK 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

LK 2:22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Notice here they did what they had to.

Their belief structure had ways of dedicating the children, we dedicate children in our church, this was a presentation of the child to God.

They did what was expected.

We need to do the same – put our children in a place to hear about Jesus and the education has to start early.

Day 8 may seem a bit early for a dedication but it was the way it was done. The child begins a connection with God from the outset.

Mum and Dad had me in church the first Sunday I was out of hospital. I went through Sunday school and experienced the way they lived. and they always encouraged me but the final decision about whether I wanted to be a Christian was always mine.

Funny thing is – they forgot to get me dedicated! But that is a different story for another time.

One more set of verses

JN 19:25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

How horrid would this have been for Mary, to see her son executed. But she was there. I think this is the biggest lesson in a mum's mission. **Always be there for your children.** Be at every stage of their lives.

My mum used to come and watch me play football, she would drive me to the ground and watch. She actually got into trouble from a referee for some of the things she yelled out with one of the other soccer mums at one stage. Mum supported me in what I was into

This passage is a beautiful picture of Mary supporting her son and in return Jesus giving her a support system by getting John to be her "adopted" Son. She has support, John has support Mary did support. Mums have a mission to love their children through thick and thin It isn't always easy but it is our mission.

These have been just a few thoughts for us about mums. Let today mothers' day be a commitment day for mum's to continue to care for our children and family.

But hey the rest of us – treat me special, remember their goodness and give them credit for their love.