MOTHER'S DAY

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May 14, 1972
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

IN NOMINE JESU

Song of Solomon 8: 7: MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE,
NEITHER CAN FLOODS DROWN IT.
IF A MAN OFFERED FOR LOVE
ALL THE WEALTH OF HIS HOUSE,
IT WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORNED.

It is NOT my PURPOSE today to EULOGIZE MOTHERHOOD - or to get WEEPY and TEARY - or somehow try to put a HALO around MOTHER'S HEAD. Mother's - like the rest of us - are SINFUL HUMAN BEINGS. They KNELT DOWN - like the rest of us - to receive FORGIVENESS and ABSOLUTION for their SINS. And I am sure that when the ROLL is CALLED up yonder - they will be just as GRATEFUL and just as thankful for all of the GRACE and the MERCY and the LOVE of GOD as ANYONE ELSE.

But mother's DO have a SPECIAL PLACE! They are the VERY HEART and CORE and CENTER of the HOME. They are the pivotal point around which the WHOLE FAMILY FUNCTIONS. Father, children, cats, dogs, hamsters - you NAME IT - they ALL look to MOTHER.

When is the LAST TIME you KNELT DOWN to GIVE THANKS to GOD for your MOTHER? When is the LAST TIME you HUSBANDS KNELT DOWN to THANK GOD for the MOTHER of your CHILDREN? * How do YOU GIVE EXPRESSION to YOUR LOVE for her? How do YOU SHOW her your APPRECIATION and THANKSGIVING for ALL of the LAUGHTER, and JOY, and KINDNESS, and SPARKLE she GIVES to YOUR LIFE and to YOUR HOME? .....
You cannot do this simply by GIVING HER THINGS - CARDS and PRESENTS! A WHOLE RELATIONSHIP of LOVE is at stake here - - and no one can EVER hear TOO OFTEN the words, "I LOVE YOU" - when they come from the SINCERITY and DEPTHS of YOUR BEING. None of us can ever get TOO MUCH of THAT! Nothing else will ever be able to take its place. As our text so well: MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE, NEITHER CAN FLOODS DROWN IT. IF A MAN OFFERED FOR LOVE ALL THE WEALTH OF HIS HOUSE, IT WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORNED."

Only GOD could have thought of HOME! Only GOD could have thought of LOVE - for "GOD IS LOVE" - and without Him there is NO LOVE AT ALL. Only GOD could have thought of MOTHER at the CENTER of HOME and of LOVE! Only GOD could have thought of GIVING and SACRIFICING His only BELOVED SON - - to TEACH US what LOVE really is!.....When all of the bric-a-brac - when all of the MATERIAL THINGS - when all of our POSSESSIONS - are CAST ASIDE - - - - there is only 1 thing that REALLY MATTERS; and that is LOVE. "LOVE IS OF GOD. HE WHO LOVES IS BORN OF GOD." There is NOTHING else in the WORLD LIKE IT. "IF A MAN OFFERED FOR LOVE ALL THE WEALTH OF HIS HOUSE, IT WOULD BE UTTERLY SCORNED."

That means RELATIONSHIP! It means relationship between GOD and YOU - between YOU and your FAMILY - between HUSBANDS and WIVES, between PARENTS nad CHILDREN, between CHILDREN and PARENTS! It means relationship in the WHOLE BODY of CHRIST - the CHURCH! It means GIVING, and CARING, and WILLINGNESS to SACRIFICE and BE SACRIFICED. It involves REJOICING with those who REJOICE - CRYING with those who CRY - MOURNING with those who MOURN - HOPING with those who HOPE - and GIVING COMFORT and CONSOLATION to the HOPELESS and the DESPAIRING. LOVE is ALWAYS the INTIMACY of RELATIONSHIP.

TRAGICALLY, too often, we get our PRIORITIES mixed up. Somehow we IMAGINE that LIFE consists in the ABUNDANCE of the THINGS that we POSSESS. We work our FINGERS to the BONE - we ACCUMULATE EVERYTHING - but in the PROCESS, so often, the 1 thing that REALLY COUNTS is LEFT BEHIND - - - and that is LOVE. But I can tell you this - - where LOVE EXISTS, there is NOTHING that can STOP IT! There is NOTHING that can get in its WAY! "MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE, NEITHER CAN FLOODS DROWN IT!

LOVE IS OF GOD! So often, when we TRY to ACCOMPLISH or DO something - we do it

by trying to MANEUVER or MANIPULATE, CAPITOLIZE on people's WEAKNESSES. We JOIN ARMS with the STRONG, the POWERFUL, the IMPORTANT and the MIGHTY. We somehow IMAGINE that this will ACCOMPLISH what we want to HAVE DONE - both with OURSELVES and in the WORLD in which WE LIVE. But this REALLY ACCOMPLISHS NOTHING - because most often, it is done WITHOUT LOVE, or CARE, or CONCERN.

When God in His DIVINE PROVIDENCE wants something to HAPPEN to HUMANITY or to the CHURCH - He stoops down from HEAVEN and places a CHILD into the ARMS of a MOTHER. Soon or late, THAT CHILD brings to HUMANITY either GLORY or DISASTER - HEAVEN or HELL. That is why the HOME is SO IMPORTANT in the PROGRESS of the WORLD. When all is SAID and DONE - it determines the TONE of SOCIETY - the CONSECRATION of the CHURCH - and the LIFE of the INDIVIDUAL HUMAN SOUL. Men and women now and then RISE ABOVE their HOMES - but their HOMES can SELDOM RISE ABOVE THEM.

So on Mother's Day it is IMPORTANT to ASK : What kind of HOME to YOU HAVE? Is it a PRELUDE to ETERNITY and a DWELLING PLACE of PEACE? Or is it a HOUSE with OPEN DOORS and STARING WINDOWS - through which sweep all the BITTERNESS of the WINTER of the WORLD and the DIRTY RAINS of jealosy and selfishness? Have you PERMITTED the GOLDEN FIRES of HOME to BURN DOWN into the GRAY ASHES of the COLD HEARTH? God PITY YOU if you HAVE! Then you have NO PLACE TO GO - NO PLACE to REST your HEART - NO PLACE to SING the SONG of LIFE! Each day you may go to a HOUSE with DOORS and WINDOWS - but you will NOT be going HOME!

If you have a HOME in which CHRIST DWELLS then CLING to it with ALL the STRENGTH God has GIVEN YOU. God knows that you will LOSE IT SOON ENOUGH. There will come a day when the FIERCE TIDES of LIFE will TEAR YOU from your BLESSED ANCHORAGE and DESTROY the SACRED BONDS which now hold you to the 1 spot in the WORLD which is still

YOUR OWN. Before that day comes, remember that it is BETTER to KISS the FACE of the LIVING than to THROW FLOWERS on the COFFINS of the DEAD - with an ACHE in your HEART - because you REFUSED to LOVE when LIFE was YOUNG, and while your DEAR ONES were still in the way WITH YOU. If Mother's Day says anything, it ~~must~~ says that we must LOVE while there is STILL TIME.

Out of LOVE for us, our Lord Jesus came and GAVE HIMSELF - yea, even His OWN LIFE! Nothing could STOP HIS LOVE - it brought Him to the CROSS - the the HELL of Golgotha! It DROVE HIM to the utter lengths! He DIED - that we might have a HOME - that we might have a HOME BOTH HERE and HEREAFTER in HEAVEN. He wants us to SHARE in all of the BLESSEDNESS of HIS PEACE and JOY and HOPE and LIFE FOREVER AND EVER.

Thank God for MOTHERS and FATHERS - for CHILDREN - for EVERYONE who holds on to this LORD and THIS CHRIST. Then we can BE SURE that this will not only be a GOOD Mother's Day - but a GOOD FAMILY DAY - and our home will be BLESSED by HIS PRESENCE. Amen.