

Today is the day which our nation has chosen as Mother's Day. On this day, mothers all over this country are receiving cards and gifts from their children in gratitude for the love and care which they have received throughout their lives. While Mother's Day is not a religious festival, we can still use this occasion to thank the Lord for all of the blessings which He has showered upon us through the mother which He has given to us. We can do even more than that — as we reflect upon the love and compassion which is so natural for a mother to show to her children, we might use that to be able to begin to understand the love which the Lord God has for each one of us. As we journey through this life, and the road upon which we must travel becomes difficult — like being told to stay at home because of the coronavirus, we have the tendency to think that God has forgotten us. We might even question whether He really even cares about us any longer. In order to show the children of Israel how great the love which our Lord God has for each one of us, Isaiah used this illustration which is before us this morning. As we take a closer look at this, we shall see that **GOD WILL NOT FORGET US**. We know that a mother's love for her child is special, but God's love for us is even greater than a mother's love for her child.

Isaiah begins with a rhetorical question: **“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?”** A mother's connection to her child is truly amazing. In many other illustrations in the Bible, a father's love for his child is used. But that illustration is not good enough for Isaiah here, because a father's love can be tempered by cool, calculating reason. A mother's love for her little child is pure, warm and tender. The mother has a physical connection to that child, for she has carried it for nine months before she gave birth. That child truly is a part of her, and remains a part of her. That is why Isaiah asks the question, **“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast?”** Is it possible for a nursing mother to forget all about this infant? Of course that would not be possible. That bond between mother and child is so great that a mother will never be able to forget her little baby, as though it were not important to her.

Isaiah continues with his question: **“Can a mother have no compassion on the child she has borne?”** A mother's love will not allow her to tear that child out of her heart. Even if that child does things which she knows are wrong and which hurt her tremendously, she will not stop loving her child. If her child needs compassion, then a mother will be there ready to give all of the compassionate love which the child may require. That is just the way that mother's are.

Our mother has loved us in just this same way. There is something very special about a mother's love for her child. There is nothing rational about it. That bond of love begins long before birth and remains throughout life on this earth. So it is fitting and proper to set aside a day like today to remind each and every one of us to show our love and gratitude for all of those things which our mother has done for us throughout our life. She has made sacrifices for us, and her love is always there. Certainly she deserves to know how much we appreciate all that she has done for us.

As we worship the Lord today, we also want to remember to thank the Lord for the blessings which He has given to us through our mother. Certainly in her love for us, she has brought us to the feet of our loving Savior, and taught us from little on that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” The Lord God has given us both spiritual and physical blessings through the hands of our mother. And He will continue to bless us through her for as long as He allows her to remain on this earth, for her love for us will always be there.

And that is why Isaiah used the picture of a mother's love for her child in the illustration of God's love for His children. Isaiah had asked that rhetorical question of whether a mother could ever forget her nursing child. The obvious answer to that question would be: NEVER! And that is what makes the rest of this verse so striking, for Isaiah says that God's love for us even greater than a mother's love.

Isaiah continues, quoting the words of the Lord: **“Though she may forget, I will not forget you!”** Isaiah had prophesied that the Israelites would be taken into exile because of their obstinate rebelliousness

against the Lord. Then, while in exile, they would begin to think that the Lord had forgotten about them. They would think that they were stuck in exile, never to return again. That is why the Lord uses the illustration of a mother's love. As great as the love is which a mother has for her little child, it might still be possible for her to forget her little child. As unbelievable as that may be, God would never be able to forget his children. In other words, His love for His children is even greater than the love which a mother has for her children.

His compassion and forgiveness is better than anything which we could ever experience in this earth. We are still in the season of Easter. It was at Easter that we saw how great God's love for us really is. Jesus came to this world and lived a holy life that could be credited to our account. Then He willingly went the way of the cross to wash away all of the guilt of the sins which we commit. That was how great God's love for us was. He did not forget us and did not abandon us in our sin, even though He had every right to do so. He desired the best for us, and the way that He could provide that for us was to have Jesus suffer and die in our place. Even greater than a mother's love and compassion is the love which God has and continues to have for us. The resurrection of Jesus at Easter was God's proclamation to the world that life and salvation are ours through faith in Jesus. This love and forgiveness cannot ever cease, for we have God's own word of promise that He will always love and forgive us.

So on this Mother's Day, let us remember to show our love and gratitude for all that our mother has done for us. Let us also thank and praise the Lord our God for blessing us in so many ways through the mother which He has given to us. But most importantly, let us remember that as great as our mother's love for us is, it cannot measure to the great and unceasing love which our God will always have for us. We can be absolutely certain that God will never forget us and never stop loving us.