

# The Unwanted Parts of Motherhood

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **May 12, 2024**



Celebrating mothers is a good thing, and it didn't start with the greeting card company. It began when God instructed us to "honor your father and mother." Since we live in a time when the sanctity of human life is not sacred, celebrating motherhood—and the women and families who have decided to welcome children onto their lives—sends a very important message to our culture. Women, wives, and mothers have a place of inestimable significance in Scripture. They are necessary for our culture and our communities of faith, and they play a significant role for God's purposes throughout His Word, the history of the Church, and God's Covenant people. That said, we tend to confuse God's will and serving the Lord with "easy." Church, God-assignments don't come without challenge, and motherhood represents that in an amazing way. The wonder and celebration of a newborn child is preceded by months of sacrifice and discomfort until the point of delivery, which can be painful and difficult—and that's just the beginning of motherhood! It's important to remember the best things in life are on the other side of "difficult."

## I. GOD'S PROVISION FOR MARY & HER FUTURE

Luke 1:26–28 <sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

- A. Chosen by God for a Unique Role
- B. God's Provision was Sufficient
- C. A Most Remarkable Set of Experiences
- D. In God's Will
- E. Heartbreaking Moments
- F. Victory in Knowing Jesus
- G. Had to Surrender Her Dreams

### 1. God has a unique role and assignment for you. How do you use your God-given unique qualities?

## II. UNWANTED CHALLENGES

### A. Timing Was a Problem

Luke 1:26–27 <sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

### B. Disruption of Her Plans & Dreams

Matthew 1:18–19 <sup>18</sup> *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

### C. Gossip, Hatred & Rejection

Luke 1:38–40 <sup>38</sup> *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. <sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.*

### 2. What challenges are involved in learning to wait on God's timing? What are the benefits?

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3. Share a time in your life when following the Lord put you on a pathway that was difficult. What was the outcome?

D. Unprepared & Inadequate

Luke 2:43–46 <sup>43</sup>After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup>**After three days they found him** in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

4. How do you encourage yourself when you feel unprepared or inadequate to say “yes” to the Lord?

E. Knowing & Waiting

John 2:1–5 <sup>1</sup>On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, <sup>2</sup>and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” <sup>4</sup>“Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Luke 2:16–19 <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But **Mary treasured up all these things** and pondered them in her heart.

5. What is the difference between “knowing about Jesus” and “knowing Jesus”? How can recognizing the difference, and being able to communicate it, help others more fully understand the power of the Gospel?

F. Processing Loss

John 19:25–27 <sup>25</sup>**Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.** <sup>26</sup>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,” <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

G. Beyond Your Control

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension

6. Give some examples of when you made the decision to trust God rather than lean on your own understanding and strength.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the mother You chose for me. I trust Your grace and mercy. Today, I choose to bless her and rejoice in the faithfulness of my God. I pray for the families of our nation — strengthen them, awaken them to your purposes, and protect them from evil. In Jesus’ name, amen.