

“GOD BLESSES THROUGH MOTHERS”
BOOK OF RUTH
Dr. Gerald L. Durley

This morning is the day we, in this country, consecrate and call Mother’s Day. A woman who loved and dedicated her life to her mother fought for years to have this day set apart to remember mothers. Her name was Julia Ward Howe, and the year was 1870. Each of us has memories of our mothers. Her discipline, her kindness, her sternness, her wisdom, her insights, her kisses, her hugs, and her love are all expressions and impressions we may have of our mothers.

In this morning’s sermon I want to lift up the life of a mother who felt that God had abandoned her—forgotten her. In fact by her own admission she asked her friend, “Call me Mara, because God has made my life bitter. I had everything when I left, but the Lord has brought me back with nothing.” (1:20, 21) What a horrible view of how God had blessed her. In studying her life we can learn several lessons on how God blesses us through a mother. God can bless anyway He chooses, but I want to focus on Him blessing through mothers as we honor all mothers today.

Naomi was from Bethlehem of Judea and married a man whom she loved dearly. They were blessed with two faithful sons. Because of living conditions, they moved to Moab. There the sons married Moab women. Unfortunately, the husband and both sons died leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law. She decided to return to Judea and begged her daughters-in-law to stay with their families. Orpah stayed and Ruth pledged her undying loyalty to her mother-in-law.

Naomi loved Ruth with a mother’s deep abiding love, but she felt she had nothing to share with Ruth, in fact, Naomi’s own spirit was broken due to the circumstances of life. But “God blesses through mothers.” Naomi accepted Ruth’s request to live with her even though times would be difficult and Ruth would be a foreigner in Judea. Naomi helped Ruth to get a job gleaning the fields of wheat and barley; she gave her motherly advice on how to get married, as well as who to marry—Boaz.

As a mother she forgot her own life which was filled with death and despair and let the blessings from God flow through her to Ruth.

Ruth eventually married the wealthiest man in town and had a son named Obed. Obed became known as “Naomi’s boy.” (4:17) Obed had a son named Jesse who later became the father of King David. (4:17)

Even though a mother had become bitter and felt that God had cursed her she eventually realized God was always there. God will always be there—TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE A WAY!!

God has blessed mothers who have for centuries blessed their children and others:

1. Hagar’s love for her child – Genesis 21:16
2. The mother of Moses – Exodus 2:3
3. The mother of Samuel – 1 Samuel 2:19
4. Rizpah’s love for her sons – 2 Samuel 21:19
5. The mother of Solomon’s time – 1 Kings 3:26
6. The Shunamite mother – 2 Kings 4:20
7. The Canaanite mother – Matthew 15:22

8. The mother of Jesus – John 19:25

9. Mrs. Charles Lee Durley – My life story

Mothers, today we honor you by saying THANK YOU for letting God use you to bless us. We realize that we do not express our love and appreciation enough, but accept our acknowledgement that you have shown us the mercy,