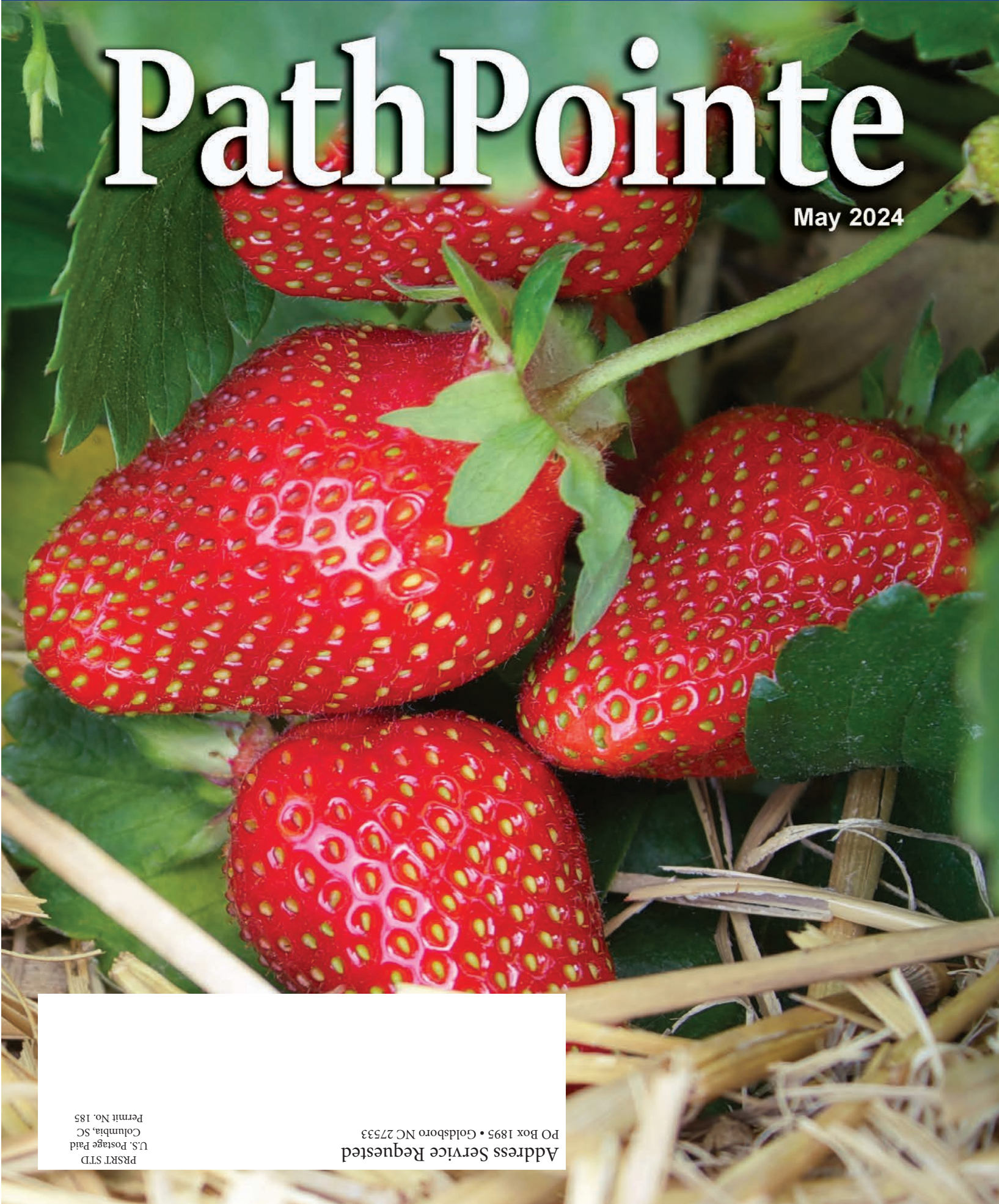


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# Things My Mom Taught Me

Dr. T. D. Worthington



*“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*

**Proverbs 1:8-9**

It is hard for me to think of specific things my mom taught me, because Mom and Dad were always on the same page. If they disagreed, I wasn't aware of it. So, the things I am sharing are things that I specifically remember Mom teaching me, but Dad was always there to enforce the teaching if it became necessary.

Something that we often miss is that you don't need extensive training, elaborate ideas, or a shelf full of parenting books to properly raise children. Mom had none of those things, but she did have a host of simple things that turned into strong memories and life-long lessons for me. May I share a few?

## ***Always Save For What You Want.***

At home, we saved money like there was no tomorrow. Growing up, there was not always money available for activities I wanted to

do or popular items my friends had. I was instructed that my needs were always more important than my wants. Therefore, a lot of clothes came at Christmas and birthdays. Yet, as I look back, I had everything I needed because we saved. And Mom instructed me to save money also. But she also instilled in me that I could have anything I wanted if I worked hard and saved money for it. So, I did. Along the way, I found jobs and developed skills to help me make money on the side. Funny thing, hard work doesn't seem so hard when you are saving money for something you want. The best words you can hear are “*would you like to work overtime*”, or “*would you like to come in on Saturday and do some extra work?*” It was a no brainer. Thus, work became a passion. And if you are passionate about what you are doing, the money you desire will usually come in on its own.

***Always Be Responsible.*** I clearly remember this was one of the biggest lessons I learned from my mom, because she drilled it into my head every single day. My mom taught me to always be responsible

for my own actions in life. It's my fault I didn't make that sports team. It's my fault I woke up late and missed breakfast. If something didn't go my way, it was because of my own actions, and no one else could change the outcome except for me. This was a very valuable thing for me to learn. And it was HARD! But, in the real world, no one can change the outcome of the path you choose to take. If something wasn't going well in my life, I had to be the one to change it. And I discovered HOW to change it for the better. Yes, I made plenty of mistakes and wrong choices. But I acquired knowledge from them every single time about what NOT to do.

The truth in life is that no one is likely to change things for you. You have to be the one to change. Take that responsibility for your own actions and own that change. Become a better person because of it. Parts of being responsible meant being dependable, always being on time, honoring your commitments, being efficient, and working hard. My mom was a very hard worker. Not only did she care for her

family, gardens, and home, but she often helped dad with his projects. She always made the time to help people in need.

***Always Seek to Be Selfless.*** I can scarcely remember my mother putting herself first. Perhaps making our family pose for a photo — but that didn't happen very often. Mom taught me that the most successful people in the long run are those who are givers. While most people fit in the “getter's category”, Mom definitely was a “giver”. My mom didn't have a lot to give, she and dad worked hard for all that we had, but she still gave of herself and her time. And in so doing, I began to follow her example.

***There is Always Something to Be Done.*** My mom was a stay-at-home mom. Most were back in those days. But that doesn't mean it was easy. She usually cooked three meals a day. This was without a dishwasher and a microwave. Much of the food, especially in the summer, came out of the garden so it had to be cooked from scratch. Then, any extra harvest was canned or frozen to be utilized in the winter. Mom washed our clothes in an old wringer washing machine, hung them on the line to dry, and then she had to iron baskets full of clothes every day. Mom was seldom hard pressed to find something to do. She raked the yard in the fall, planted her flowers in the spring, helped in the garden in the summer, and often caught up on her sewing in the winter. She always found something to do, some way of making a contribution. And the whole time, whether she realized it or not, she was being watched—by me. I am still in awe of what

she could get done. She taught me that if there was something I didn't know how to do, I should learn how to do it. She taught me that I had better have a good reason to ask for help if I could do the job alone. I now understand her lesson. She knew that people would never have respect for someone who is lazy and ignorant. And she did not want her son to grow up that way.

***Always Have Class.*** We lived in a small town, so when I paint a picture of my mom perspiring in the garden, I don't want you to get the wrong idea. My Mom was a classy lady; not movie star classy, although she was quite a looker in her younger days. I am talking about being a lady. When I was growing up, she always wore a dress. Even in the garden, I still remember her putting vegetables in her apron. Remember the flower garden I spoke of earlier? She also had a row in the garden for flowers. Those flowers were for the house. We usually had fresh flowers in the house. She always dressed up to go off and so did I. It was expected. My mom taught me that little things mold you into a classy person. Manners were a

good example. We may have been “country folks” but there was no free pass for bad manners in our house. Back then good manners were an indicator that a child was brought up well.

The first and most basic thing I was taught was to say “please”, “thank you”, “you're welcome”, “may I”, “excuse me”, and “I'm sorry”. Asking for permission to use or borrow something, even if it was a family member, was expected. Mom taught me to be respectful to people of other races, religions, or someone with a disability. I was reminded to show respect toward my parents, grandparents, teachers and other adults, and especially to the elderly. Even as a child I was taught how to be a good guest when visiting someone's home. I was taught to eat what I was served, and help with the clean-up. I was taught to be honest. I was taught to do what I said I would do, keep my promises, and never lie. Table manners were important. Washing my hands before sitting down was essential.

Someone once said, “to be courteous is to be humble.” Simply put, it shows you have respect for





yourself, and for others. A polite and considerate child is a rare thing today. The manners you teach them will help them shine in a dark world. It will become another part of the legacy you leave behind. The home I grew up in was far from a classy home, but yet it was. As I said, she was a stay-at-home Mom, and I know that makes a difference, but Mom showed me you can have a neat and clean home even with kids running around. Each child had chores to do every day. Mom taught us how to work and how to respect our home. Our house wasn't perfect, but my parents had a neat and tidy home when I was growing up. My mom taught me that if you teach your children to work and be respectful, you can have a home that is beautiful. Being a classy person is not a prideful thing, it means you care about yourself and those around you. Your words and actions elevate yourself and others. There's a million ways to be classy, and being classy, will change your life.

***Wrong Should Always Be Punished.*** Mothers are great at giving praise, even if it seems over the top. You got an A in English, let's have cake

and ice cream. You got your stitches out, this calls for cake and ice cream. You got your driver's license, let's have cake and ice cream. You get the idea. Mom was always my first and greatest cheerleader and was always proud of my achievements. But, if I did something wrong, I knew about it! Mom believed in old school accountability. I knew some boundaries could not be crossed.

***Life is Not Always Fair.*** If my mom wanted to whine about life being unfair, she certainly had enough material to go on for days. She grew up during the depression. Following that, our country entered World War II. Mom didn't graduate high school. She only got to the 11th grade. The year was 1943. That is the year they decided to add the twelfth grade. Even as a child I said "Mom, that doesn't seem fair." "You have to accept life is not fair" She would always say. "That's how it is. No use asking 'why?' You just have to get back on your feet and keep going." She taught me rather than fixating on how "unfair" life is, focus on what I can do to overcome the challenges in front of me. Life may be unfair, but you can still make the best out of it. You just

have to accept what's happened, get up and keep moving forward, one step at a time.

***In conclusion:*** I've realized as I've grown older, that it was thousands of little childhood moments helped to make me who I am today. The same will be true of you and your children. I'm so thankful for my mother's hard work and unceasing commitment to loving me and teaching me how to live.

***"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."***

**Proverbs 1:8-9**

*Have a  
Happy  
Mother's Day*



***Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty-five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.***

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Sometimes fundraising is simply a response to a crisis. For **GoMix Christian Radio**, our fund drives are to help sustain and grow our day-by-day ministry. Our **Share-A-Thon** is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Mission and vision are so central to the life of God's people, that without them we lose our way and perish.

Our **Share-A-Thon** is a season for us to proclaim what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our mission and vision. Some call it begging. I suppose it might sound that way sometimes. Yet, it is the total opposite of begging. When

we seek to raise funds, we are not saying, "Please, could you help us out because we are about to go under." We are instead declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We think it would be wrong not to share it with you! We are inviting you to invest yourself using the resources that God has given you (your energy, your prayers, and your money) in this work to which He has called us to do."

Although it can be humbling to ask people for finances, we can ask for help because we believe in what we are doing so much that we want to invite others to be a part of our work. We are drawn together by our Lord, who is about to do something amazing through our working together.

Most of the time, charities are "out of sight, out of mind" and very easy to forget. They often work quietly behind the scenes, and are only remembered when they send a monthly newsletter or when you may specifically

need their services. **GoMix** is different. We are easy to find, day or night. There are a lot of great ministries that you trust with your funding, however, you may seldom get the opportunity to see your contributions at work. Thankfully, at **GoMix Christian Radio**, you can check up on what your dollars are doing anytime you wish; actually, we hope you will do it often!

As we continue to celebrate the victory in reaching our **Spring Share-A-Thon** goal, we want to thank everyone for their prayers, financial gifts, and hard work. Every effort you made was truly appreciated.



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## Silence

Have you ever noticed how uncomfortable the majority of people are with silence? It's been said that people are just as quick to have a new car worked on for a broken radio as they are for a "check engine" light.

Whether we're in a car, working around the house, or even sleeping, it seems as though we need some type of background noise or entertainment to keep us distracted. Why is that? Could it possibly be a tactic the enemy uses to keep us from prayer and

meditation, critical thinking about events going on in the world around us, or searching within ourselves (with guidance from the Holy Spirit) for things we should be doing differently in our own lives?

Although we're all about great Christian music and programming here at **GoMix Christian Radio**, we also want to encourage you to enjoy a little bit of silence from time to time. Challenge yourself to think a little deeper, pray a little harder, and simply bask in the goodness of our Heavenly Father.



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7



# The Hardest Mile

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

Motherhood has many different stages. We tend to think as we go through each one, the current stage is the hardest. A woman experiences many different stages of motherhood: pregnancy, infancy, toddler, childhood, teens, adults at home, adults that leave home, and finally, the stage when she loses her independence and has to become more reliant on her children.

When we are pregnant, we cannot wait until the baby comes. We are tired of morning sickness and at the end, we are so uncomfortable. We are so ready for the baby to arrive.

However, the sleepless nights are just beginning. Not only do we get up in the night to feed our babies, but we get up when they are sick, and many times, we have to monitor them to be sure they don't get worse. We think if they could just be more independent.

We get so tired of carrying the kitchen sink around in diaper bags, and we usually carry baby furniture when we go out of town. We cannot wait until they get out of diapers so they will be more independent, but when they start showing their independence, we wish they would

obey better. Of course, that is up to us, isn't it. Some of the things we thought were cute before they started school aren't cute anymore.

Every child is different; some are more compliant and others are more difficult. But the preteen and teenage years are some of the most difficult. The tears come for no reason, and the insecurities with their new bodies are always a challenge. As a parent, it is difficult to know how much freedom to give them as well as how much responsibility. If we don't teach them, they will not become mature

adults. But if we give them more than they are capable of handling, they are doomed for failure. We want them to grow enough to be independent and responsible, otherwise, they will always be dependent on us.

The ideal situation with adult children living at home is to treat them as friends. Our children were expected to contribute to the running of the home in every stage of life, but as adults more was expected. We expected them to obey a few house rules which we honored as well. We always expected to know when our adult children would be home as a matter of courtesy, and they were expected to honor our values as a matter of respect. Other than those things, there were no other rules, unless those concepts were violated. We have enjoyed every stage of our children's lives, but this stage was one of the most enjoyable for us because overall these principles were honored.

All of my children are married and have children of their own. I understand what my mom meant when she said you never stop worrying about your children. You just have more to worry about. I have 12 grandchildren now, so I worry about them too. When your children no longer live at home, it is a very difficult road to travel. Knowing when to speak up and knowing when to keep your mouth shut is one of the challenges. When a mother sees her adult child doing something she thinks is a mistake, it is hard to know if this is a time to speak up. When she sees her children straying from the Lord or not faithful in church, how much



does she say? There are times to speak up and there are times to stay quiet. Unsolicited advice is seldom accepted at any time, so I try to be very prayerful and selective. We often think, I didn't raise you to be this way, or you know better than that.

Do you ever wonder what God thinks when He looks down on us and we are being stupid? I can only imagine. He is much more patient than I and He knows exactly what to say. But I wonder if He thinks, *"Why are you doing that? You know that is against my Word, and you are going to encourage others to sin."* Or when we miss an opportunity to witness He might say, *"Why didn't you tell them about me? Are you embarrassed that you are my child?"* You can fill in the blank. We need to think of all the things we have asked our children over the years and picture the Lord asking us the same question. Would we have an answer? I imagine our answer would be just as pitiful as the ones our children gave us.

I think as I near the final stage of my life it will be the hardest mile. I dread the day of becoming

more dependent on my children. I hope I will do it graciously and not be a pain. I do hope they will understand when I am hard-headed and want to do it myself. I do want to be a sweet old lady when that time comes, although I hope I have many years before I am awarded that title. I do know the way to be sweet in your old age is to be sweet now so I am working on that one. When I do go to Heaven, I hope that people will say, *"She was a servant of the Lord, and she was the kindest woman I ever knew."* Wouldn't that be grand!

What will your children say about you? Happy Mother's Day!

***"Who can find a virtuous woman?  
for her price is far above rubies."***  
**Proverbs 31:10**



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

# Why Is Jesus Late?



*Mrs. Amber Sherman*

Have you ever been disappointed in Jesus? Have you ever had a time when you thought He would have treated you differently because you have followed Him so faithfully? You could even be called His friend...surely that means you would get special consideration when trials come your way.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were close to Jesus. Jesus would often stay with them when He came to Bethany. These three siblings were dedicated followers and even friends of Jesus. Mary was the one who sat at His feet. Lazarus surely was at the table listening to Jesus with the disciples when Martha was so burdened with serving all of them. This Mary is the one who anointed Jesus' feet with oil and wiped them with her hair, being one of the few who understood Jesus' sayings that He would die on the cross.

Why, then, when they called for Jesus to come when Lazarus was sick... did Jesus not come? **John 11** gives a fascinating account of what seems

to be an awfully odd way for Jesus to treat His friends. Perhaps you can relate to Jesus doing some of the same things in your life.

***“When he (Jesus) had heard therefore that he (Lazarus) was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.”***

**John 11:16**

Jesus receives a message from the sisters that Lazarus is sick. Then He stays right where He is for two more days. Does Jesus ever seem to stay still when you have beseeched Him to move in a situation or a need in your life or the lives of those you love?

***“Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.”***

**John 11:17**

Now, this does not surprise Jesus that Lazarus has been dead four days. He told His disciples plainly in the previous town that Lazarus was dead,

and it was time to go now. To Mary and Martha, however, might it appear that Jesus has shown up too late? *“Lord, if you HAD been here, my brother had not died.”* Both sisters say the same thing individually on separate occasions. They had the faith that if Jesus had “shown up” sooner, something could have been done about it. If Jesus had acted sooner, things would not be beyond hope now. Have you ever felt that way?

***“When Jesus therefore saw her weeping...he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled...Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!”***

**John 11:33, 35-36**

Notice how Jesus grieves over their sorrow - over Mary and Martha and even the other Jews' sorrow who are nearby. Jesus told His disciples earlier that He was glad (**Verse 15**) for their sakes that He was not there to heal Lazarus, to the *“intent that ye may believe.”* Even in the greater purpose

of growing their faith, Jesus sorrows in their sorrow! Can you believe that! Even when God has a greater purpose and a higher plan for our suffering, He is not sitting on the side untouched. He is not saying, *“You will thank Me for it later. MmmmmHmmmm. I know best. Don’t cry. You will grow through this.”* NO! It shows us clearly in this passage that He is grieving with them! God bottles our tears (**Psalm 56:8**). He hurts when we hurt...especially when it is because of His plan!

***“And...he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”***  
**John 11:43**

They were waiting to hear the voice of God in their lives. Lazarus was dead until his master spoke. The sisters were without hope until Jesus spoke. All was hopeless...until Jesus spoke!

Has something in your life died – a hope, a dream, a love, or maybe a future? Do you feel it could have been salvaged before, but now it is too late? Is your hope dwindling now that decay has set in on that which you loved so much? What if God sent death...so that you might see life? What if God sent death...so that you would see the hand of God in your life in a more powerful way than you ever thought possible? What if death was sent so

that...that which you loved...could be raised...changed and transformed? Surely Lazarus was never the same again! What if death was sent in your life...and it is because God has a special plan to glorify Himself in this! Are you willing to look to Him for the answers? Are you willing to suffer for the sake of the furthering of His Kingdom?

***“Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.”***  
**John 11:45**

In closing, let us look at one last fact, and it actually takes place at the beginning of the account. It is something of tremendous importance if we are to look to the possibility of suffering for Jesus’ name’s sake, for His Kingdom, and for loving and glorifying Him!

***“Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest (philepe) is sick.”***  
**John 11:3**

The word love here is a translation of the Greek word for friendship.

***“Now Jesus loved (agape) Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.”***  
**John 11:5**

Here the Greek word is agape. This is the deepest level of love there is. It is unconditional, deep, and abiding. There is no deeper level of love than the one used here. Notice that when Mary and Martha referred to Jesus’ love for their brother, they used a level and definition of love lower than this. Then the Scriptures clarify that Jesus had a much deeper love for them than that.

Notice that Jesus’ love was deep, purposeful, unconditional, and unchanging BEFORE Lazarus died. Jesus’ deep love for them was in place before their suffering, before He knowingly caused them pain for the glory of God and of Himself, the Son of God.

How often do we assume that Jesus’ love for us is shallower than His wondrous love really is? Any plan God has, we must rest in His love for us, and we must be willing to suffer to bring Him glory. Do you and I love Jesus enough to suffer, that He might be lifted up and glorified?



***Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of four and serves as a teacher at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro, N.C.***



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# Reaching the Prodigals

Mothers relish the thrill of holding their newborn babies. We dream of watching them mature, give their lives to Christ, and live lives of service for Him. But those dreams aren't always fulfilled. I have been exposed to many mothers recently who are not experiencing that kind of joy. Somewhere along the way, their children have turned aside. These mothers, burdened for their beloved offspring, have bathed them in prayer, asking God to bring them into a relationship with Him or to restore the relationship that they have abandoned. Some of them trusted Christ as their Saviour many years ago. They were faithful to church and served in various capacities. But now...they are not. What happened? What makes one remain faithful and another leave? What can we do about it?

Most importantly, don't lose faith. More than anything, God wants a restored relationship with your child. Don't stop praying. Be open to giving God permission to do whatever it takes to show your child the need for a renewed relationship with Him. Consider fasting as you implore God to work in your child's life. Be open to what God may be trying to accomplish in your own life. Praise Him for every little bit of progress.

When Satan whispers lies about our Heavenly Father's ability or willingness to bring your child back to Himself, recognize those lies for what they are... our enemy's attempts to cause us to give up, discourage us, and limit our faith. Refuse to dwell on Satan's lies.

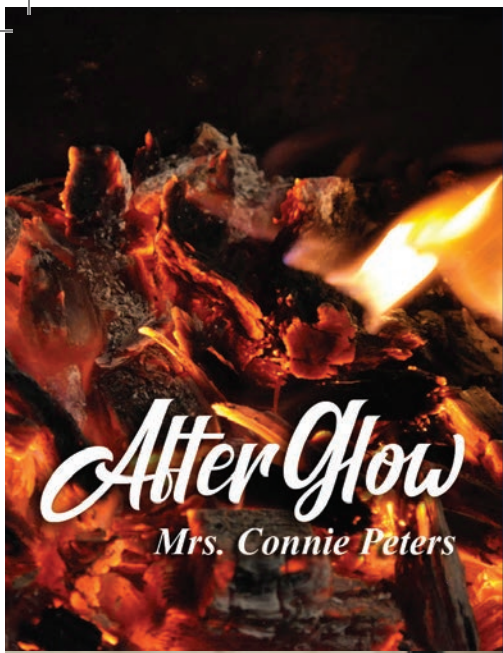
During times of discouragement, revisit the times when God's working in your child's life was evident. You may want to keep a record of those accomplishments. As an act of faith, develop a vision of your child living for our Savior. Concentrate on God's attributes in relation to your child. Our heavenly Father has the wisdom to know how to reach him. He is powerful enough to bring His plan to pass. His love, mercy, grace, and longsuffering patience can bring your child back to Him. Ask God to use His attributes and your child's circumstances to reach him.

Our Shepherd understands your child. He doesn't look down on him, but He diligently seeks him. Even when your child is not thinking about Him, the Good Shepherd is stubbornly pursuing. Like the shepherds of old, His heart loves enough to pay with His own life. His eye is always searching. His faithfulness pursues even when the wolves threaten. His strength is able to deliver, and His tenderness cares enough to heal any hurt completely.

Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and president of Samaritan's Purse, went through a time of rebellion. His rebellion burdened his parents for many years before he let God rescue him. In his autobiography, Rebel With a Cause, he says that "God has taken the raw material of my life and shaped it into something I pray is useful for His glory." Indeed, He has. And He can do the same for your child. Ponder that!



*Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. She serves as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



*After Glow*  
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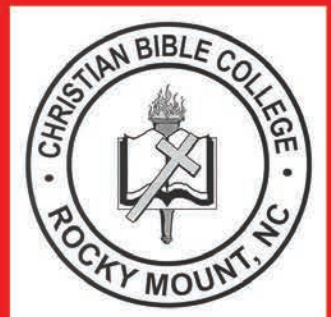
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