

MAY

MOTHER'S DAY '09



Enjoy the **PRESENT!**

by Audrey Meisner

People who enjoy what they do – are generally good at it! I think about my hairstylist who sees his work as a piece of art, or our son Robert's bus driver who has the biggest smile and genuine care for the school kids. I have observed the same thing about moms: those who enjoy their children are the greatest parents!

Last Sunday Robert (7) and I decided to make homemade pancakes. It was all fun and laughs until Robert spilled the syrup - and suddenly we were going to be late for church! I became impatient, and the clock took over. I find I need to relax a little more, put the "list of things to do" away once in awhile and take time to enjoy my kids. There's no magic age, and there's no perfect day to begin. Today's a great day!

The Perfect Mom

If you're trying to be perfect or impress anyone, you'll have a tough time enjoying parenthood. Your children want to know you for who you are. They will respect you for admitting fault and depending on God much more than for being perfect.

The thing I love most about being a mom is the atmosphere of openness and honesty in our home. I realize that for us to be transparent, there must be an element of safety. When my children open up to me about an imperfection, or a fear, or a deep concern of their heart, they are letting me see them for who

they are. I want to embrace them, and not SHAME them, so that they know they are safe with me.

Know their Hearts

All four of our children are vastly unique from each other. I can enjoy my children most when I look at life through their eyes. I often ask myself: what are their greatest fears? How can we help identify the lies and replace them with the Truth in God's Word? What makes them laugh?

our hearts. Where we have believed lies about ourselves, about your children, and our future, let's replace them with Truth.

Do you fear the future? The woman described in Proverbs 31 is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs in the face of the future! Don't let the enemy rob you of your dreams. Recently I recognized that I could have fear in regards to who my children will choose to marry. I quickly replaced that lie with Truth, and thanked God for His provision. I began to see the

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What's important to them? What do they dream about – and how can I strengthen those dreams and set them up for success? These are questions I ask God in the place of prayer – and He graciously gives the gift of wisdom to all who ask!

Don't Miss the Moment

In order to enjoy the present, we must deal with the past. We have all made mistakes. We have been a disappointment. Let's quit ignoring them in hopes they will dissipate, and actually deal with them! Let's apologize to our children and then ask God to transform

future through eyes of faith – my children will choose wonderful mates!

We Crave Enjoyment

As a daughter of the King, there's nothing I want more than relationship with my Father in Heaven; my best friend; my bridegroom. He loves that I enjoy Him, because it means I desire Him, and spending time with Him isn't a chore, but rather something I crave. My prayer for you as a Mom, whether your children are five or fifty-five, is that you will enjoy your children in the present as the gift that they are!

Help Us
**HELP
MOMS**

MOST OF THOSE who watch *It's A New Day* are Moms! I am so thankful that *It's A New Day* provides encouragement and life giving teaching to Holy Spirit Moms everywhere. What better place to be, than in the homes of thousands on their television.

We are fighting for families – and many tell us, "I turned on the show, and God spoke to my heart, exactly what I needed for that moment... I thank God for this resource!"

With your gift, you can sponsor a mom who doesn't have extra to give this month. Today, invest in others and future generations!



THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

“And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free!”

The following is a true story, used by permission, but we have changed the names to protect the privacy of the couple involved.

The Pain Was Obvious

I met Rachel last Saturday night. It was the pinnacle of the Marriage Getaway weekend as couples prepared to reaffirm their vows to one another. Live music, wedding cake and expectation filled the room. We as girls waited outside the ballroom while our men held roses waiting for us to enter as they greeted us with a kiss. I hugged each “bride” as they entered. Such celebration! There was only one left – we were alone in the huge hall and she looked at me with fear in her eyes, shaking her head and said, “Audrey I can’t do this. Not right now.” I hugged her and said, “It’s ok – I understand. I’m going in now, and we’ll begin the ceremony. You can slip in quietly while no one is looking.”

I didn’t see her again until the festivities were coming to a close. Couples lined up to receive communion and we prayed a blessing over each one. This time Rachel was with her husband, Ryan and the pain in both of their eyes was alarming. They proceeded to tell us their story. Just a couple of hours earlier Ryan confessed to Rachel the betrayal of a fifteen-year affair. She was completely shocked for she had always trusted him.

Do I Have to Tell?

One of the most challenging aspects of fighting for marriages is encouraging couples to embrace Truth. There is a difference between unloading all the “facts” and embracing the Truth. Facts have to do with secrets and lies and Truth is a person – Jesus. Receiving Him and His view and opinion is embracing truth about our identity. There is great wisdom required to discern how and when the facts need to be revealed in a relationship. We have also found that eventually the facts will be realized and the Truth embraced in order for intimacy to flourish in a relationship.

In our own story of victory after adultery, facing the facts by revealing my secret to Bob was a large part of our personal recovery. But it’s not an easy message to deliver. Silence usually shadows the audience as I tell my own story of confessing the sin of adultery then immediately hearing God’s voice urging me to tell Bob. It’s so tempting to react in fear: “Please no, Jesus! I promise not to do it again! Can’t we just keep this a secret? I don’t want to hurt Bob with the pain of my betrayal!”

Identifying the Lie

What is so clear to me now is that God loves me enough to tell me the truth; even if it’s utterly painful and scares me to death. God wants Bob and I to be free, victorious and full of unspeakable joy – and He says it Himself, the truth will set you free. It sure doesn’t feel like it in the moment.

That night, Ryan and Rachel received ministry as they took communion together. We declared God’s life and redemptive power over their marriage. Ryan had become a Christian two years ago, and had not involved himself in the affair since his conversion. It was obvious that the pain of his remorse and repentance was excruciatingly real – and the pain of shock and betrayal in Rachel’s eyes was desperate - but God! Bob and I are thankful for our own testimony in which couples can see hope where there is seemingly no hope.

The Road to Victory

The next morning, I saw Ryan and Rachel during breakfast at the hotel. She asked

to see me alone, and as we sat together, she poured out her pain and fear. She told me that they never had a relationship that was very intimate, and she didn’t have a desire to stay in the marriage. She looked deep in my eyes searching for answers. She wished he had never told her. It was too much pain to bear. I was speechless – tempted to believe the same thing! But the Holy Spirit led me to plead with her to take a step of faith. I know the Truth: My redeemer lives. And He will not leave you alone. He will meet you in this extremely painful place and transform your heart. Don’t waste this pain, for it’s a tremendous opportunity for God to heal you of worthlessness so that you can receive His love in a very real and deep way. We held each other and asked God for the grace to persevere.

Today, it’s three days later. I received an email from Rachel that has sent my heart racing and rejoicing with ecstatic celebration. Could this really be my sweet sister that I just met, full of pain and despair? Here’s what she said:

Hi Audrey.

Well, first I must tell you that God is absolutely, unbelievably awesome!! As Ryan and I are moving through the trials of his confession to me of the 15-year affair - I am feeling absolutely FREE!! The Lord has brought me to a place where this has not devastated me, but has shown me what was wrong with our marriage right from the start - we had no intimacy and we need our relationship with God in order to bind our relationship to each other.

We are now praying together, we are talking to each other and we are building a brand-new relationship - a new beginning! I can understand how this affair happened and I see how my actions/reactions to the relational distance further increased our dysfunction.

Audrey, I cannot express adequately the absolute power of our Lord. Even on Saturday before Ryan confessed to me, I bought a new bible case - the one I chose had a portion of the poem Footprints “My precious child, I never left you during your time of trial. Where you see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you”. God was telling me that it was His time to carry me - He had prepared my heart and mind to hear and accept and forgive my husband on that Saturday!! He had prepared Ryan to tell me the entire truth, not just part of it like he planned. He had prepared us to become what He intended a married couple to be – completely “one”.

God is with us always and will be our guide on this new path - which will have it’s bumps - but I am so blessed and so excited by the prospect of finally having the marriage we are supposed to have. We are both full of faith.

Thank you Audrey and Bob - the Lord used you two last weekend to start us on our journey to wholeness. Praise Jesus!

The Happy Ending

We all know that this truly is the beginning, and even though the journey to wholeness comes in layers, I have witnessed two believers willing to walk with Truth. I am more passionate than ever to resist the temptation to compromise and counsel people to do what’s “comfortable”. God wants us to face the Truth instead of avoid it or ignore it. He doesn’t leave us alone, He promises to walk with us and even carry us, giving us His grace for every single moment. Let’s believe God for marriages that are secure in transparency and openness – and enjoy the freedom of intimacy! Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life – and the Truth will set you free!

