**Mother’s Day - Ponderings**

**Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter,**

**and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”**

***(Genesis 21:6)***

**As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.**

***(Isaiah 66:13)*  
For God said, Honor your father and your mother.  
*(St. Matthew 15:4)***

**And how does this happen to me,**

**That the mother of my Lord should come to me?**

***(St. Luke 1:43)***

**When the fullness of the time was come,**

**God sent forth his Son, made of a woman.**

**(*Galatians 4:4)***

**Now, as always, the most automated appliance in a household is the mother. *(Beverly Jones)***

**Let us make pregnancy an occasion when we appreciate our female bodies. *(Merete Leonharte-Lupa)***

**I remember a scathing “put-down” popular in my younger years. When you wanted to label a man as spineless you sneered that “he was tied to his mother’s apron strings.” Come to think of it, though, the way the world seems to be falling apart, I can’t think of a more secure place to be tied. *(Charles M. David)***

**Babies are bits of stardust blown from the hand of God. Lucky the woman who knows the pangs of birth for she has held a star. *(Larry Barretto)***

**Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world. *(Kate Douglas Wiggin)***

**Before you were conceived I wanted you.  
  Before you were born I loved you.  
    Before you were here an hour I would die for you.  
      This is the miracle of love. *(Maureen Hawkins)***

**Based on God's law as revealed in the Bible, Mother's day is not one of the days we are commanded to keep. It's not that God does not want us to honor mothers one day out of the year, but rather he expects us to honor our parents every day of the year. *(Richard Ames, in Plain Truth magazine)*  
Child rearing means taking a big bite out of your life. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**The bond between mother and daughter is unbreakable. But when the bond has been torn, as it has with distant daughters, it will always require special care. Scar tissue will replace the tear, but scar tissue is fragile – the wound can open again. So take nothing for granted with your daughter, and never assume that your work with her is done. There are always holidays, crises, family events that will test your new relationship, and you have to be prepared for them. There are really only two ground rules to remember as you embark on this lifelong rebonding: Respect each other and stay committed to the process. Even when you learn things you never wanted to know about yourself, your family and your daughter, somehow find the will to persevere. Rough spots are inevitable, and Mother’s Day is the worst. Every mother is disappointed. Every daughter says, “I can’t please her.” Every Grandma says, “So, where are they?” If you know that these flash points are unavoidable, you can plan for them by scheduling a checkup with your therapist in advance of the holiday. *(Charney Herst, in For Mothers of Difficult Daughters: How To Enrich and Repair the Relationship in Adulthood)***

**The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new. *(Rajneesh)***

**Motherhood brings as much joy as ever, but it still brings boredom, exhaustion, and sorrow too. Nothing else ever will make you as happy or as sad, as proud or as tired, for nothing is quite as hard as helping a person develop his own individuality, especially while you struggle to keep your own. *(Marguerite Kelly and Elia Parsons)***

**My children are small, still lap-sized with many years ahead in my care. And yet, already I know, and I feel that one day, no matter how many diapers changed, bottles fed, books read, hands washed or faces kissed, it will never be quite long enough. (*Jennifer Graham Billings)***

**Did any of us really know what a total commitment becoming a mom really means before we took the leap? We make commitments all of our lives – it may be to a job, a spouse, or a pet. But this is different. This one never goes away. *(Janet Van deWalle, in Women’s Edition magazine)***

**You know you’re a Mother when . . . You stop criticizing the way your mother raised you. (*Tidbits)*For a short while, our mothers’ bodies are the boundaries and personal geography which are all that we know of the world. Once we no longer live beneath our mother's heart, it's the earth with which we form the same dependent relationship. *(Louise Erdrich)***

**Motherhood is a first aid kit for healing our hurts, worries, and mishaps. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother. *(Margaret Sanger)***

**Only mothers can think of the future, because they give birth to it in their children. *(Maxim Gorky)*  
God could not be everywhere, and so He made mothers. *(Jewish proverb)***

**A Mother’s Growth: I have cried a mother’s tears but tears must one day dry. I have known a mother’s fears for I could only try to teach my children how to live the Truth that they should know for they have only come through me and on their way must go. *(Joyce Franklin)***

**Heaven is at the feet of mothers. *(Persian proverb)*  
There are one hundred and fifty-two distinctly different ways of holding a baby -- and all are right. *(Heywood Broun)*  
  
Childbirth is difficult, but holding the child makes the pain worthwhile. *(Marianne Williamson)*  
  
I remember leaving the hospital thinking wait, are they going to let me just walk off with him? I don't know beans about babies! *(Anne Tyler)*  
It's easy to pick children whose mothers are good housekeepers; they are usually found in other yards. *(Anonymous)***

**Motherhood has a very humanizing effect. Everything gets reduced to essentials. *(Meryl Streep, Academy-Award-winning actress and mother of four)***

**A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary. *(Dorothy Canfield Fisher, in Her Son’s Wife)***

**Babies don’t come with directions on the back or batteries that can be removed. Motherhood is twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. You can’t “Leave the office.” *(Patricia Schroeder)*  
 I find, by close observation, that the mothers are the levers which move in education. The men talk about it, but the women work most for it. *(Frances Watkins Harper)***

**A mother loves her children even when they least deserve to be loved. *(Kate Samperi, Australian author and advice columnist, present day)***

**From a five-year-old: God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean. *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**The thing you never understand about being a mother, until you are one, is that it is not the grown man you see before you, with his parking tickets, unpolished shoes, and complicated love life. You see all the people he has ever been rolled into one. *(Jojo Moyes, novelist, in Me Before You)***

**There is no such thing as a nonworking mother. *(Hester Mundis, in Powermom)***

**An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest. *(Spanish proverb)*  
  
My mom is literally a part of me. You can’t say that about many people except relatives, and organ donors. *(Carrie Latet)***

**There’s no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one. *(Jill Churchill, in Grime and Punishment)***

**A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. *(Tenneva Jordan)*  
There is no influence so powerful as that of the mother, but next in rank in efficacy is that of schoolmaster. *(Sarah Josepha Hale)***

**When a child asks difficult questions, invention is the necessity of Mother. *(Capper’s Weekly)*  
If I had a child to raise over again, I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less. I'd do less correcting and more connecting. I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes. I would care to know less and know to care more. I'd take more hikes and fly more kites. I'd stop playing serious and seriously play. I'd run through the fields and gaze at more stars. I'd do more hugging and less tugging. I would be firm but affirm much more. I'd build self-esteem first and the house later. I'd teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love. *(Diane Loomans)***

**A mother never realizes that her children are no longer children.  
*(Holbrook Jackson, British critic and historian)***

**I remember with remorse how my mother told us children, “Just when you all got interesting, you all left home.” *(Liz Carpenter)***

**It is only when the rigidity of advanced pregnancy sets in that you appreciate fully how useful it was to be able to bend at the waist. *(Audrey Hull)*  
If there were no schools to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers. *(E. W. Howe)*  
Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The greatest sight one sees beneath the stars is the sight of worthy motherhood. *(George W. Truett)***

**To a mother, a son is never a fully grown man; and a son is never a fully grown man until he understands and accepts this about his mother. *(Anonymous)***

**Think of stretch marks as pregnancy service stripes. *(Joyce Armor)***

**Surrendering to motherhood means surrendering to interruption. *(Erica Jong)*Sweater: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly. *(Ambrose Bierce)***

**Having a baby is like getting a tattoo on your face. You really need to be certain it's what you want before you commit. *(Elizabeth Gilbert, author)***

**A mother who navigates the waters of the terrible twos can weather any storm. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)*  
Before becoming a mother I had a hundred theories on how to bring up children. Now I have seven children and one theory: Love them, especially when they least deserve to be loved. *(Kate Samperi)***

**No one else, ever, will think you’re great the way your mother does. *(Mary Matalin, in Letters to My Daughter)***

**Children wear out their mothers faster than their shoes. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**No delusion is greater than the notion that method and industry can make up for lack of motherwit, either in science or in practical life. *(Thomas Huxley)*  
Every work of art is the child of its time; often it is the mother of our emotions. *(Wassily Kandinsky)*  
All mothers are working mothers. *(Anonymous)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***