

**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2009: Mother's Day: Divine Mothering: Luke 13:22-35**

**Just recently I read a Christian book.....controversial**

It's a work of fiction called **THE SHACK**

**It's the story of a** man whose daughter has been murdered

**He is angry**, bitter, and hostile towards God....**and altho** his wife still has....a loving

**He doesn't**-----→**Then God sends him a letter**

**He travels to this shack which is way out in the wilderness**

**And there he meets with the God**....in the physical form of 3→with the Trinity

**But it's here that the controversy begins**

**Because** God the Father is revealed to Him as an large black woman...a mother

tells him to call her **papa**

**Now as you can imagine.....**It's here than some have a huge problem

**God has** revealed Himself to us as Father.....**Jesus** calls Him.....and tells us

**We know that: →He is Spirit.....and as such is neither male nor female....**

**But the Scripture** always refers to Him as The Father.....never as **The Mother**

**So—how dare this** man present God in form of a Mother!!! **Put the book down**

**But when you continue.....**You discover that at the very end....

**God changes** His outward appearance.....**He** becomes very much a Father

The strong out door type...wise older man

**And through the story**....it has become clear.....**that Mack** had huge problems

Relating to God as Father.....**His own father** .....

**At that time** what needed most.....was to sense the **Mothering** characteristics of

**It's the Mothering** characteristics of God.....that Jesus referred to in the passage...

**In Luke 13:34**

**"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"**

**Jesus is reacting to some Pharisees**..... Who wanted Him to leave that area.....  
**Limited** power over Him.....**and to** move into other areas of Judea...esp Jerusalem  
**Where they could arrange His ultimate death**

**He saw them** as representing the people of Jerusalem  
**People** who were so sure of their own righteousness  
**People** who were so independent ...**Who** didn't want a God who called them sinners  
**People in rebellion against the Saviour of the world**

- **To such Jesus**.....speaking on behalf of the Godhead....tells how God yearns  
To be to them like a mother hen is to her chickens

**To protect them**.....to give them safety and security.....**to forgive** and have  
compassion.....**To bring** them back to where they belong.....  
**YET THEY WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT**

- **We find the same mothering characteristic of God....**  
as applied to the children of....recorded by Moses in **Deut 32:9-11**

**"For the people of Israel belong to the Lord...He found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland. He surrounded them and watched over them; He guarded them as He would guard His own eyes. Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions."**

**There is no other way** to interpret this passage than to acknowledge....  
Its author is picturing **God as a brooding mother eagle**  
protecting her frightened chicks....carrying her children safely on her wings.

**That is a description of God**,..... interacting.....protecting..... providing and  
nurturing God's children...the Israelites, us!

**I read somewhere** that a female eagle is one-third larger than the male eagle, which enables her to spread her massive wings over the eaglets to protect them. She spends the most time on the nest once the chicks have hatched, and her alertness and speed assure that no predator will touch the eaglets under her watchful eye.

**What a beautiful, powerful image of mothering care!**

### **1. So we discover that our God**

**Yearns for** the most rebellious of us.....**to be drawn** back into His love and care  
**With** that special....acceptance of us.....however we come back

**And that I see as the way most mother's act too**

**When a child** has rebelliously left.....**I normally** find both parents strongly desiring  
**And both** want the child to learn from.....& **to** return with remorse and repentance

**Yet I always seem to see** in the mother.....a slightly diff priority to the Father  
**She wants the child back.....whatever.....**

**It is the Father** who wants to see....some evidence

### **2. And we also see our God.....**

hovering over our lives like a Mother does over her children

**Never letting us out of His sight.....**

**Always there** to comfort us when we hurt.....Pick us up when we fall....Encourage  
**And at times lovingly discipline.**

- **God knew that we needed ....**to relate to Him as Father
- But it's so important** that we see within Him.....**those** special characteristics  
...of a mother.....**honed to perfection**

**Because at times** we all need to know.....**that God loves** us as a Father  
**With the depth of love.....**of caring.....of gentleness that we associate with  
.....**the love we crave from a perfect mother**

**In Isaiah chapter 49:14**....We read about some of God's people.....  
who were saying about the Lord

**"The LORD has forsaken me,  
the Lord has forgotten me."**

**And that may be** what you have thought at times....as you've gone thro suffering

**And the Lord responded to** them with these words:

**"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast  
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?  
Though she may forget,  
I will not forget you!  
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;"**

**God is so perfect in His love for you**.....because He responds to you  
.....with the love of Father.....**and with** the love of a Mother

**And He loves you in that way**....whether you have responded to Him or not  
**Upon His** hands He has engraved you.....For as God the Son He died ....

**And with characteristic love of a mother....**

He wants all His children to be safe in that love

**You Mothers know that feeling**

**That's why he calls us** all to open our hearts to Him  
**To come** to Him and trust in Him  
**To bring** our burdens to Him....and open our hearts to him

**For none other can ever care for us.....like our wonderful God cares**

**Max Lucado story of Christina.....with story of Prodigal son**

