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## **Resurrection Life: Lifelong Learning**

*Matthew 5:1-12*

**1. Learning to make peace.**

*- Matthew 5:9*

**2. Learning to hunger and thirst for righteousness.**

*- Matthew 5:6*

**3. Learning to mourn.**

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Resurrection Life: Lifelong Learning  
5/9/2021 – Mother’s Day  
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## **Resurrection Life: Lifelong Learning** **Matthew 5:1-12 NIV**

In the Nazarene church, pastors must submit what’s called lifelong learning hours each year. Books read, conferences gone to, classes we took, etc. So our Pastors must continue to learn and grow. As we learn, we hopefully are helping the people in our church to learn as well. Part of living a resurrection life means we are continuing to learn about who Jesus is and what his call for our lives is. Learning is also fitting for today because we have all learned life lessons from our moms. Even after growing up and moving out of the house, I could call my mom to ask about a recipe or some other question. I’m sure you can remember a life lesson your mom taught you. For us to be lifelong learners in the resurrection life, we need to begin with our teacher of the resurrection life, Jesus. Today we’ll learn from Jesus’ teaching in His Sermon on the Mount. We’ll also see some additional examples of Jesus words lived out by moms in the Bible.

Our word for today comes from Matthew chapter 5, we will jump around a little bit but the main passage is from Matthew 5. Stand with me in honor of God’s word as we read together, verses 1-12:

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:1-12)

Thank you for standing with me, you may be seated. There are parts of this passage that we need to be lifelong learners of. In the Resurrection life, we need to understand the importance of...

### 1. **Learning to make peace.** *Abigail (1 Samuel 25)*

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

How many of you had a mom who was the peacemaker in your family? My mom had to be. My sister and I didn't get along all the time. We would be arguing in the back of the car and my mom would say, stop arguing. I'd say, we aren't arguing, were just disagreeing. It made perfect sense to me as a kid. Any peacemakers in your family carry a wooden spoon? Don't answer that. Abigail was a peacemaker in 1 Samuel 25. David sent a message to Nabal asking for a favor. David and his army had been in fields nearby and while they were there; they had helped protect Nabal's sheep and shepherds. Nothing bad happened to the sheep and shepherd so they asked for some food and water in return. Instead, Nabal insulted David and gave him nothing. So David and his army prepare to go kill them all. Luckily for Nabal and the rest of them, Nabal's wife, Abigail, went and apologized for Nabal and gave David food and drinks to keep the peace and spare Nabal's life and the others. Here is what David did after Abigail offered her peace offering:

1 Samuel 25:35...

Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.” (1 Samuel 25:35)

Being peaceful sometimes means doing nothing. Making peace usually requires some action. Abigail had to do something and say something to make peace. Learning to make peace requires some effort before we say what we think, we need to be slower to speak and do. Like James 1:19 says:

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”  
(James 1:19)

Learning to be peacemaker means thinking and praying before we do something, before we speak, or before we post something online. Does this picture, or comment, or joke make peace? Not usually. Abigail had the right words and actions to make peace. Had she done nothing, lots of people would have died. Learning to be a peacemaker means choosing words and actions that make peace. God bless the peacemakers in our lives, and God help us as we learn to be peacemakers. Learning to be a peacemaker is important and so is:

### 2. **Learning to hunger and thirst for righteousness.** *Elizabeth/Mary (Luke 1:5-6)*

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
(Matthew 5:6)

It doesn't say, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for power or money, or who hunger and thirst to be right; but who hunger and thirst for righteousness. I hope you all have a woman in your life who is or was a Godly example. If not, there are lots of them in the Bible. Elizabeth was a righteous woman and she showed it a few different ways. Despite her old age, she gives birth to the one we know as John the Baptist. John was the one who (as prophet Isaiah said) would prepare the way for Jesus. John would teach others about Jesus and his ministry to come. Luke 1:5-6 says, Elizabeth was righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. Later in Luke 1, Mary comes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and it says Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and called Mary the mother of her Lord. An angel told them what would happen, and they had faith to believe it would be so. For being a righteous woman, Elizabeth was blessed in her old age with a baby. Elizabeth also showed righteousness by not falling into the comparison trap. She had been visited by an angel, was pregnant, she had news to share, just like Mary. But instead of sharing her news when Mary arrived, she blessed Mary first. They rejoiced together that they had a part in God's plan. We all have a part in God's plan too. But in our world, it is so easy to compare ourselves to others. The kind of mom you are, or how you parent, or how you wanted to parent. Or what they have to what we have or what they've been through to what we have been through. Instead of comparing, Mary and Elizabeth shared the joy of God's plan with each other. While they celebrated together the excitement of being new moms, we know there are many who have a tougher time celebrating on Mother's Day. It is a painful reminder of what they never had, or a reminder of a loved one lost. Some of you have even lost a loved one this past year, which is why we also want to remember the importance of...

### 3. **Learning to mourn.** *Naomi (Ruth 1:20-21)*

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

Mourning is something we can learn from Naomi as we see the ways she mourned the death of her husband and sons. Naomi's story is found in the book of Ruth. Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law. After the tragedy of losing her sons and husband, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law (the closest remaining family she had) to leave her and go back to their own families so they could be provided for. Ruth refused to leave her though. So Ruth and Naomi went back to Bethlehem, where Naomi was from. When they got there, the town was busy and excited she had returned. They asked, "if this was Naomi?" So let's read her reply in Ruth 1:20-21:

"Don't call me Naomi,<sup>[b]</sup>" she told them. "Call me Mara,<sup>[c]</sup> because the Almighty<sup>[d]</sup> has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted<sup>[e]</sup> me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." (Ruth 1:20-21)

So Naomi mourned in a few ways: she pushed those closest to her away (daughters-in-law), she was bitter and resentful (the name Mara means bitter), she blamed God, and she didn't just think these things, she verbalized it and put it all out there. If Naomi had pretended like everything was fine, Ruth probably would have gone home like Naomi originally asked her to. But Naomi expressed her grief, which was probably why Ruth was willing to give up everything to be with Naomi.

Being a lifelong learner when it comes to mourning means not just learning to mourn like Naomi, but also learning to help others mourn like Ruth. You may mourn in ways similar to Naomi (needing space, bitter, blaming God), but maybe not even close. Learning to help someone else mourn means knowing they may mourn differently than you do. Giving them space, or a word of encouragement, or prayers, or a listening ear, or a hug, or just sitting and crying with them. God used Ruth to comfort Naomi, He can use us to comfort others too, but it is God who is the great comforter. As we learn to mourn, He will and does comfort us.

*Prayer*

Our last point for living in the resurrection life is...

#### **4. Learning to follow.**

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12)

In Luke 1, Mary was just told she was going to have a baby, God's son. She was afraid and probably unsure of what would happen or what people might think. But hear her words in verse 38, “I am the Lord's servant”. She didn't just say the words and go on with her life, she showed she would follow God's message. Learning to live as Jesus would later show her. Do as he did, love as he loved. Mary was willing to follow God even though there was a good chance she would be persecuted and insulted for being pregnant when she and Joseph weren't married. Scholars believe her cousin, Elizabeth, was 60-70 years old and according to Luke's Gospel, she was very old. 60-70 isn't that old right? But Luke was a doctor, and from a having children point of view, you could say she was old. Luke's words, not mine. Elizabeth had no children (which in Bible times meant you had sin in your life, or that God was unhappy with you). But as we heard earlier, the Bible said Elizabeth was blameless, righteous, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Others might not think so highly of her because she had no children, but God knew her heart and the faith she had. Both of these women gave up any future plans they may have had in order to follow God and be part of God's big plan of redeeming and saving the world. If they were persecuted because of Jesus, then they were blessed. If we are persecuted because of Jesus, then we will be blessed. If you have been persecuted or insulted because of Jesus, it was probably because you said something or did something. It was because of how you lived. Learning to follow Jesus means not being afraid of what others may think or say about us because of Jesus. Learning

to follow Jesus, means learning to do. Learning to live the faith you believe in. The resurrection life is life, it's about living.

We are to be lifelong learners, but learning isn't enough, if it doesn't impact our doing. James 1:22...

“Don't just listen to God's word, do what it says.” (James 1:22)

“Listen to my words,” is something my wife and I say to our kids when we are trying to tell them to do something. I know they're listening when they do what I asked. James is saying, “don't just listen, do it!” Or my paraphrase, “don't just learn it...live it!” We can learn from our moms, and the moms in the Bible, but it's not enough if it doesn't cause us to change our actions. It needs to affect our doing. Jesus didn't die on the cross so we could learn all about him and his life, to just feel good about ourselves on Sunday and get back to work on Monday.

I'm not talking about doing more and getting busier. I'm talking about making sure our lives reflect Jesus and we learn to do what is most important with the time He has given us. That could mean learning to do something or learning to stop doing something.

Blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are those who mourn, and blessed are you when you are persecuted because of Jesus. You are blessed, you can be blessed, and you can be a blessing to others. So, go do it.

*Prayer*

Have a happy Mother's Day, our church has a gift for you ladies today on your way out.

See you later.