

A Poured Out Life
Mother's Day
May 2014
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A Woman approached Jesus
In all humility and devotion
She took her most treasured possession
And she anointed his feet
In absolute abandon and surrender
She demonstrated her commitment and love.

She took the valuable oil
With such a sweet fragrance
Poured it upon his feet as a sign of blessing
A show of her love and compassion
A sacrifice and a service to Jesus
The woman poured out all that she had.

And when I think of this woman,
I am reminded of others
Who share the same heart and passion
As that woman so long ago
Willing to pour out their lives in
Sweet abandon and surrender.

I am reminded of the women in my life
Who have embodied the spirit of this one
Who gave of themselves freely
To demonstrate a heart of compassion and love
To show a spirit of gentleness and grace
To reveal a soul of passion and strength
Who have poured out all that they are
For the benefit of another – namely me.

Mothers have shown by their lives
They understand this sacrifice and service
They have poured out their lives
On behalf of another – their child.
They have given themselves
In sweet abandon for love of another.

They pour out their time –
Mothers lose hours upon hours
Worrying about their charge.
They awake in the early hours
They tend to the most urgent demands
They sacrifice their own rest and comfort
To do what the moment requires.

They surrender their own desires –
So many times Moms go without
So that their children can have what they do not
They want for their children
The things that they have wanted for themselves
But so often had to forego.
They surrender their own pleasures
For the sake of those in their lives.

They sacrifice for their family –
Godly mothers demonstrate sacrifice and service
They give of themselves, their talents, their time
To meet the needs.
Sometimes they work outside of the home
As well as toil within the wall of the house
Simply to ensure that their children
Are well tended and cared for.

They open their hearts –
Mothers wear their heart on their sleeves
And are always open for another
They feel the pains their child feels

They rejoice at the things that brings their children smiles
They expose themselves in trust
They foster hope and dreams
They open their emotions –
Often to be repaid with tears and pain.

They bear another's wounds –
They weep when their children weep
They bear the scars of their children's struggles.
They bind up the pains of childhood
And soothe the hurts of adolescence
They are present when difficulties arise
To provide a comforting shoulder upon which to cry
To embrace when loneliness becomes overwhelming
They bind the broken bones, skinned knees and wounded souls.

They fight battles – emotional and spiritual –
Mom's can critique and complain
They can encourage and cajole
But no one else can – they watch over their beloved.
They fight their battles and stand with their children
They pray over them and weep with quiet tears
They engage the enemy, beseeching God's protection
They long for only God's best as they make their way through life.

They love with sweet abandon –
Mothers love – there is no other term
To describe the service, sacrifice and surrender of Mom.
They love – without reservation.
They love – without limitation.
They love – without hesitation.
They love – without restriction.
They love – with recklessness.
They love – with completeness.
They love – with a totality of heart.
They love with sweet abandon.

I remember my own mother –
I am humbled by her sacrifice
I am touched by her love
I am amazed at her endurance
I am shocked her strength
I am humbled by her tenderness
I am challenged by her encouragement.
I am blessed by her example

I remember the mother of my wife –
I am encouraged by her faithfulness
I am inspired by her devotion
I am strengthened by her discipline
I am stirred by her compassion
I am roused by her action and service
I am blessed by her example

I also remember the Mother of my Child, my wife –
I am surprised by her joy
I am astonished at her strength
I am speechless at her insight
I am in awe of her beauty – both body and soul.
I am joyous with her laughter
I am startled at her compassion
I am taken-back by her forgiveness
I am blessed by her example.

There are also other women
Who have graced this life of mine
Ladies who have poured out their lives
In sweet abandon and devotion
To strengthen, encourage and empower mine.

These have been women of strength
And have endured hardship and pain.

These have been women of compassion
Moved by the needs and sorrows of others.

These have been women of faith
Surrendered to their God and Redeemer

These are women who have served as models
To emulate and imitate,
They have poured out their lives
Both in devotion to their God
And in service and sacrifice to another.

And each of these women
Who have embraced a life of sacrifice and service
Who have poured out their lives
To minister, strengthen and support my own
Have really only imitated the life of our Savior.

Jesus took his life and broke it
He poured it out upon a cruciform tree
He demonstrated a heart of service
In humility he poured himself out for me.

These women in my life
Have broken and poured out their lives
Following the example of the Savior
And showing an unparalleled love.

So to our mothers this day
Thank you for your life –
Thank you for being poured out in love
Thank you for sacrificing so much
Thank you for being such an example
Thank you for being used up by Him!

Thank you for your love
Your influence,
Your grace
And your service to me!

May you be honored and blessed
As we break open our hearts
And pour ourselves out
In tribute to you!