

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

#Realktalk 04

PEACE OF MIND: ANCHORED FAITH IN AN ANXIOUS GENERATION

ISAIAH 26:3-4 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

We live in an anxious generation. Many people are surrounded by information, pressure, uncertainty, and fear, yet still long for peace of mind. But Isaiah reminds us that lasting peace does not come from controlled circumstances. God promises perfect peace to those whose minds are steadfast in Him, because true peace flows from a life anchored in His sovereignty and presence.

Isaiah 26 was part of a song of trust in response to God's saving work. It looked ahead to the time when the Lord would establish a strong city and preserve a righteous people faithful to Him. In contrast to the proud who would be brought low, the faithful depended on the Lord and walked in His ways. The chapter showed that real security was not found in human power, earthly structures, or national strength, but

in God alone. In this setting, Isaiah declared that God keeps in perfect peace the one whose mind is stayed on Him. (Isaiah 26:1-4)

Isaiah 26:3 says, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." The phrase "perfect peace" comes from the Hebrew repetition *shalom shalom*, pointing to complete, full, and lasting peace. This is not merely emotional calm or the absence of trouble, but deep inner wholeness and stability granted by God. The "mind" refers to the settled inward orientation of a person, while "stayed" means supported, upheld, and firmly fixed. Peace is therefore not produced by ideal circumstances, but by a life anchored in God. (Isaiah 26:3)

Isaiah then commands, "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God

is an everlasting rock." Trust is not occasional dependence but continuing reliance on God. The Lord is the everlasting Rock because He is the refuge, foundation, protection, and security of His people. Human strength weakens. Human supports fail. Human plans collapse. But God remains firm, faithful, and unchanging. Because He is the Rock of all ages, His people can lean on Him and remain steady in every season. (Isaiah 26:4)

Theologically, Isaiah 26:3-4 teaches that true peace comes from steadfast trust in God, not favorable circumstances. The purpose of this sermon is to call the church to resist fear-driven unrest by anchoring the mind, heart, and life in the Lord, the everlasting Rock. ✨

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS: GOD SEES THEIR EMPTINESS

REV. LITO VILLORIA

Mother's Day is often filled with flowers, greetings, meals, and warm expressions of love. We thank God for these moments. They remind us to honor the mothers, grandmothers, wives, and women who have nurtured us, prayed for us, corrected us, sacrificed for us, and loved us in ways we may never fully understand.

But Mother's Day can also be tender and difficult.

For some mothers, this day brings joy. For others, it brings quiet pain. Some remember children who are far away. Some carry grief over children they have lost. Some feel the burden of motherhood in seasons of exhaustion. Some women longed to become mothers, but that prayer was never answered in the way they hoped. Some mothers are honored publicly, while others serve faithfully in hidden ways.

This is why Naomi's words in Ruth 1:21 speak deeply to many hearts:

"I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" - Ruth 1:21

Naomi was a mother who knew loss. She left Bethlehem with her husband and two sons during a famine. But in Moab, she lost her husband, and later, she lost both of her sons. She returned to

Bethlehem with Ruth, her daughter-in-law, but in her heart, Naomi felt empty. As reflected in Ruth 1:21, Naomi saw her life through what she had lost, yet God was already beginning His work of restoration through Ruth standing beside her.

Naomi's story reminds us that mothers also experience seasons of emptiness.

A mother may feel empty after giving so much of herself to her family. She may feel empty when her children grow older and life becomes quieter. She may feel empty when her sacrifices are unnoticed, her prayers seem unanswered, or her heart carries burdens she does not always express. She may feel empty when she looks back and wonders if she did enough, loved enough, prayed enough, or guided enough.

Yet Naomi's story also reminds us that emptiness is not the end of the story.

Naomi said, "The LORD has brought me back empty." But she was not truly alone. Ruth was with her. God's providence was already moving. What Naomi could not yet see was that the Lord would provide Boaz as a redeemer, restore her joy, and weave her family line into the ancestry of King David, and ultimately, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the hope we celebrate today.

Mothers may not always see the fruit of their labor immediately.

Many of their sacrifices are hidden. Many of their prayers are whispered. Many of their tears are unseen. But God sees. God knows. God remembers. God works.

To our mothers, we thank God for you.

Thank you for carrying burdens that many never noticed. Thank you for loving when it was costly. Thank you for praying when answers were not yet visible. Thank you for serving when you were tired. Thank you for giving when you felt empty. Thank you for trusting God through seasons when life did not unfold the way you expected.

Your life may have moments that feel like Ruth 1:21, but we pray that God will also bring you to the hope of Ruth 4:15:

"He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age." - Ruth 4:15

May the Lord restore your strength. May He nourish your soul. May He fill what feels empty. May He remind you that your labor in Him is never in vain.

And may all of us honor our mothers not only with words today, but with gratitude, tenderness, and care every day.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers. God sees your love. God remembers your labor. God is able to restore. ✨

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