

# Mother's Day

## Looking Up Instead of Looking Around

### Hebrews 12:1-3

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 11, 2025

**Hebrews 12:1-3** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.      Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### I. You need to beware of the desire to be the “perfect” Mom!

A. Few things are more detrimental to our lives and legacies than perfectionism.

**Isaiah 14:12-15** “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! <sup>13</sup> You said in your heart, ‘**I will** ascend to heaven; above the stars of God **I will** set my throne on high; **I will** sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; <sup>14</sup> **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.’ <sup>15</sup> But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.”

#### 3 Underestimated Problems with Perfectionism

1. You’ll forget that you fall short and are always in need of grace.

**Romans 3:23-24** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”

2. You’ll think God needs you to finish what He started.

**Galatians 3:3** ““Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

3. You’ll run from weakness when that’s exactly where God meets us.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

#### II. You’ll never get everything you need from a role model.

A. God’s Word always reminds us to not look to others for what we can get in Him alone.

**Isaiah 2:22** “Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?”

**Psalms 118:8-9** “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. <sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.”

**Jeremiah 17:5,7** “Thus says the Lord: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord...<sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.’”

**Matthew 17:5** “He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.’”

**John 13:15** “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

### III. You need to look to Christ, even and especially as a mother.

**Hebrews 12:2** “...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”

*Your ultimate calling isn't to parent perfectly,  
But to follow Christ faithfully.*

#### 5 Christlike Traits Every Mom Can Learn From

##### 1. Jesus is **compassionate**.

**Matthew 9:36** “When He saw the crowds, **He had compassion for them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

##### 2. Jesus is **servant-hearted and humble**.

**Philippians 2:7-8** “But emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

##### 3. Jesus **prays**.

**Luke 5:16** “But He would withdraw to desolate places and pray.”

##### 4. Jesus **loved sacrificially**.

**John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

##### 5. Jesus **patiently endured**.

**Hebrews 12:3** “Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

#### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. Is there an area(s) of life where you're trying to perform instead of depending on Jesus? What would it look like to surrender that area to Him?
2. Who is another mom/mother-figure/mentor you could encourage this week—not because she's “doing it all,” but because she's leaning on Christ? How could you remind her of grace?
3. In what specific ways can you “look to Jesus daily”? What might need to shift in your rhythms or mindset to make that a reality?
4. What do you typically pray for your children (or spiritual children)?

5. What's one situation in your life where you need to stop striving and start trusting Him to be enough, showing you believe Christ is not just your "model," but your strength?