

The God Who Comforts

I. A Quality of a mother is ... Comfort **Isaiah 66:13**

As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

What are comfort's dimensions

A tender sighing (I didn't want this to happen) feeling or emotion

A refreshing encouragement (cheering you on ... admonishing you)

A strengthening Presence (a close beside you consolation) warmth

Why do we need comfort

For relief ... comfort foods

To be able to go the distance (helps us endure)

When do we need comfort

All the time ... as a person and as a parent

In Times of Trouble **John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless (orphans): I will come to you**

As someone endeavoring to follow God's plan

Comfort comes from God ... **II Cor. 1: 3-4** ... It's a fatherly trait

*Eric Liddel

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted.

II. God's Comfort for Mary ... the mother of Jesus

In following God's plan ... it wasn't going to be easy. Luke 1:28

And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But her response was priceless **Luke 1:38**

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Elizabeth's Encouragement and confirmation vs. 42

Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

Joseph's need for comfort and the scripture Matt. 1: 20, 23

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

The shepherds account Luke 2:16-17

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

Simeon's prophesy vs. 30

For my eyes have seen Your salvation

Anna and the Wise men (not to mention)

She would need Comfort watching what happened to her Son

God gave her a hint of what was to come **Luke 2:35**

(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

She would feel the responsibility particularly when she lost Jesus for three days

But she pondered or held onto God's words **Luke 2:19**

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

*Ruth Bell Graham

III God's Comfort For us today

He is Tender towards us (we can't live with guilt, pain and shame)

John 19:26-27 *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. HE thinks about us ...*

Psalm 139:17 *How precious also are your thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!*

The Scriptures are comforting ... **Psalm 119:50**

This is my comfort in my affliction: for Your word has given me life

*Benjamin

There's Joy and Peace in Believing **Luke 1:45**

Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

*Leslie's Story