



## December Sermon Series: What Child is This?

### Message #3: Thirsty

#### Getting the Nod

#### Skit: What Child is This... Thirsty!

**Opening Illustration:** MAKE THEM THIRSTY. The young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, "**I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.**" **The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty."** So, it is with Mary. Our lives should be so filled with experiencing Christ that it creates a thirst for the Gospel.

**Are you thirsty daily for the Gift that God not only gave Mary... but has given us, too? And if you aren't, what will it take to make you thirsty?**

**Illustration of My Morning Coffee:** Every morning when I wake up, I immediately desire a cup of coffee. I come downstairs and make a pot of coffee... and wait in anticipation for that heavenly nectar to flow down my throat. You can say I wake up thirsting for coffee. The thirst for it is a daily routine of mine. It's funny, when I was younger, I thought coffee was disgusting. No matter how someone would doctor it up... it still repulsed me. That is until I was stationed in northern Michigan as an Air Force soldier. With 7 – 8 months of winter and a flight line of aircraft usually below the point of freezing. If you touched the cockpit ladders without gloves for just a few seconds... frostbite could set in. I was so cold when I finished my current job and entered the shop... that anything warm was a welcomed factor. I started drinking coffee for the temperature... not the taste. I think we all did at first. But the taste grew on me... and now it's the first thirst I experience every morning.

We coffee drinkers share this thirst for different reasons...

**Illustration of the Coffee After Church:** Take for instance the interaction between a pastor and young boy in their church. The pastor loved good fellowship and always had someone prepare and serve coffee after the sermon. One Sunday the pastor asks a little boy if he knew why it was important to serve the coffee after the service. "**I think," said the boy, "it's to get the people awake enough before they drive home."**

**Transition:** Is there a thirst for the Christ-Child in your life?

#### What's God's Take on This?

**Illustration of My Thirst for One More Day with Mom:** There's another thirst that I have in my life... to have one more conversation with Mom. My mother, as many of you know, was a very righteous person with a thirst for prayer. She could discern things... know things... and battle things that so many couldn't overcome. She was the unconditional loving wife of an alcoholic; she was an RN nurse who provided for the family when my father would lose another job; she organized her children's lives and prayed the devil off them daily. Despite the disfunction of our father, she instilled in us unction to overcome. She was so filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom... I thirst to talk with her again. And someday I will. She was the image of her Heavenly Father.

**It's interesting how a mother's love parallels God's love for His children. Check it out...**

## Paralleling God's Love to a Mother's Love:

### 1. They both comfort their children.

- We've all seen mothers kiss a boo-boo; hold a child after a scrapped knee; and hugged a teenage child during difficult times.
- **God does the same.** NLT | Is 66:13 *I will comfort you there in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child.*
- **That Hebrew word for "comfort" means God will be present to console and have compassion for.** Sounds like a mother.

### 2. They both cannot forget the compassion for their children.

- The DNA of a mother is to never forget or ignore the needs of her children.
- **God compares Himself to a nursing mother.** NLT | Is 49:15 *"Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!*
- **God will never leave us... or forsake us!** Sounds like a mother.

### 3. They both have protective instincts.

- Have you ever seen what mothers do in times of danger... they step in front of their children.
- **God is once again brought into comparison with a mother eagle.** NLT | Dt 32:11-12 *Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions. 12 The LORD alone guided them...*
- **The Hebrew word for "Safely" symbolizes a lifting out of something; to sustain and endure.** Sounds like a mom.

### 4. They both would fight for the life of their children.

- I have watched as both my mother and Carmen became mother bears when their children were bullied; lied about; and treated unfairly. They become protective and bold.
- **Look at the comparison...**NLT | Ho 13:8 *Like a bear whose cubs have been taken away, I will tear out your heart. I will devour you like a hungry lioness and mangle you like a wild animal.*
- **"To tear..." means literally to "rip into pieces." God loves His children just as much as a mother cub tears apart anything that threatens her cubs.**

### 5. They both long to guide their children to a preferred future.

- O, the anxiety of a mom trying to lead her children in the right direction for the present and the future. Have you seen the mothers of prodigal children? The unconditional love that they possess?
- **Jesus weeps over the wrong choices of His children.** NLT | Lk 13:34 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.*
- **Jesus "wanted to gather you..." means "He willed for them a better future" ... a future that would've been so much better.** That phrase definitely sounds like a mother.

***And we can learn so much about Jesus by comparing His qualities with His mother's***

**The life of Mary and her Child gives us a beautiful picture of God's love and how we should love our families at Christmas. Let's start at the beginning...**

NKJV | Lk 1:26-35 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

### **The Qualities that Mary Displayed Like Jesus:**

#### **1. They both showed a willingness to accept their mission.**

- **Like mother, like Son.** NLT | Lk 1:38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.
- **Jesus speaking to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane... "Thy will be done."**

#### **2. They both prayed a prayer of humble submission to God the Father.**

- NLT | Lk 22:41-44 He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. 44 He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

#### **3. They both lived lives of great consequence that included deep pain.**

- **Mary and Joseph worried.** NLT | Lk 2:33-35 Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. 35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

#### **4. Neither would leave or forsake those they loved.**

- **Mary at Calvary...** NLT | Jn 19:25 Standing near the cross (was) Jesus' mother...
- **Jesus at the ascension...** NLT | Mt 28:20 ...And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- **Jesus taking care of Mary...** NLT | Jn 19:26-27 When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." 27 And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

**Have you ever asked the question, "Why did God choose Mary?" Only He knows the complete reason... but God definitely chose Mary because she was humble... she was a servant... and she was a willing vessel for God to use. Now that sounds a lot like Jesus.**

**Transition: What are the takeaways?**

## Takeaways

### Practicing Godly Love at Christmas:

1. **Just as we willingly serve Christ... let us also willingly serve our families.**
2. **Just as we humble ourselves before God... let us practice humility before our families.**
3. **Just as life throws us moments of unfairness... Let us trust the Lord with the outcomes.**
4. **Just as Jesus and Mary were inseparable in love... let us be the same with our families.**

**Transition:** I close with this...

## Drawing the Net

**Final Illustration from the Sermons of D.L. Moody:** "WATER! WATER!". After one of the great battles in the Civil War we were coming down the Tennessee River with a company of wounded men. It was in the spring of the year, and the water was not clear. You know that the cry of a wounded man is, "Water! Water!" especially in a hot country.

I remember taking a glass of the muddy water to one of these men. Although he was very thirsty, he only drank a little. He handed the glass back, and as he did so, he said—"Oh, for a drink of water from my father's well!"

**Are there any thirsty ones here? Come and drink of the fountain opened in Christ! Your longing will be satisfied, and you will never thirst again.** --Anecdotes, Incidents and Illustrations by D. L. Moody

## The Jesus Birthday Offering

**Give as unto the Lord for the opportunity to bless God... and serve others.**

**With the manger set up in center front of the podium, the Praise Team will sing, "Christmas Offering" as people come forward to drop their offerings into the manger.**