

Mother's Day 2018 "The 'Unsuspecting' Mother!"

By Cere Muscarella

Unsuspecting: trusting, not suspicious, unquestioning and non-expectant!

Mother: the one who conceives, gives birth, raises and nurtures a child!

Unsuspecting Mother's... Three Profiles

"So, after years of torment and tears, Hannah pulled herself together and made her way to the sanctuary. Crushed in soul, Hannah cried and prayed to God. Then she made a vow: 'Oh God, if You will look at my pain, and remember me and give me a son, I'll give him completely, unreservedly, to you. I'll set him apart for a life of holy service.'" **1Samuel 1.7-11**

Unsuspecting Mother's... Hannah: After long term abuse, and an inability to do anything about it, is still trusting, praying and seeking answers! "Go in peace and the God of Israel grant you the petition you have asked of Him!" "She went her way and was sad no more!"

Evidence of a faith connection! "She believed God and was healed!" "When *the time came*, she bore a son!" The pressure to produce a son was replaced by a trust in God's plans!

"Zacharias the priest and his wife Elizabeth had no child because she was barren and they were both very old now. An angel appeared to Zacharias and said, 'Your prayer has been heard and your wife will bear a son and you will call him John, and, you will have great joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth for he will be great in the sight of God and be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb. And he will precede the Messiah, turning many hearts to Him!' And when his service in the temple was done he went home. And soon afterward his wife conceived and she retreated for five months to enjoy her pregnancy, saying, 'the Lord has moved to take away my reproach among my peers...' When her full time came to deliver, she had a son and her neighbors heard how the Lord had showed great mercy on them and they rejoiced!" **Luke 1.5-58**

Unsuspecting Mother's... Elizabeth: Beyond natural ability: beyond life circumstances, beyond settling, beyond 'tags,' beyond the complications of final success, was still willing to follow the voice of God!

"And when Elizabeth's *full time came* to deliver, she delivered..." The GOD time set for gestation... The US time for 'labor and delivery...' The ME time... the 'only me' time...

Zacharias too! "Your prayer is heard..." He wasn't in the temple praying for a son! Not even a late life adoption! Abraham had asked, but like Abraham, God had much bigger plans in store! In the temple, doing (t)his duty, prayer would have been, "Send the Messiah!"

"Zacharias, the grace of God is on the way, and you will call his name JOHN! In one stroke, God turned his sonless sorrow into a salvation-song... Until he over-thought it... "Wait. How?"

"God sent Gabriel to Nazareth to a virgin named Mary and he said, 'Rejoice, highly favored and blessed one, the Lord is with you! Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God! You will conceive and bring forth a Son, and His name will be Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God will give Him the throne. And He will reign and of His rule there will be no end.' Mary

responded, 'behold the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word!' And Mary gathered herself together and went with haste to her cousin Elizabeth's house..." **Luke 1.26-40**

Unsuspecting Mother's... Mary: non-expectant: unsuspecting that a miracle of such dynamic proportions could ever happen at all! "Let it be *just as you have said...*"

"Your words are more powerful than my natural abilities/imaginative limits!"
And now I will align myself with people *who can believe and encourage my faith!*

Mother's Day Lessons!

In the matter of new life... never stop believing and trusting! "I have seen hope in the eyes of thousands and faith in the eyes of hundreds!"

When time has passed and you thought you were through... don't be suspicious of the offer for a miraculous new day! God cares about timing, not time!

When a new life is inconceivable, unimaginable, look at God and let Him do what only He can do! "Do not be afraid, highly graced one, the Lord is with you!"