

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm 88:8-20

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

MESSAGE

***“Loved, Seen, and Never Alone: The
God Who Draws Near”***

Pastor Bruce

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

Holding Joy and Sorrow Together

Motherhood is often celebrated with flowers and praise, yet real motherhood—and real life—is complex. It includes joy and exhaustion, hope and heartbreak, faith and unanswered questions. Scripture does not shy away from this complexity. Today’s readings remind us that God meets us **both** in love **and** in lament, both in celebration **and** in suffering.

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

1. God Sees the Lonely Cry (Psalm 88:8–20)

Deep Dive:

- Psalm 88 is one of the darkest laments in Scripture. It ends without resolution, without a “happy ending.”
- The psalmist feels isolated, abandoned, and overwhelmed—emotions many mothers know:
 - The lonely nights
 - The unseen sacrifices
 - The prayers that seem unanswered

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

1. God Sees the Lonely Cry (Psalm 88:8–20)

Mother’s Day Connection:

- This psalm gives permission to mothers—and all of us—to bring our full emotional truth to God.
- Faith is not pretending everything is fine; faith is staying in conversation with God even in the darkness.

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

- 1. God Sees the Lonely Cry (Psalm 88:8–20)**
- 2. God Is Nearer Than We Think (Acts 17:22–31)**

Deep Dive:

- Paul tells the Athenians that God is not distant or unknowable.
- “In Him we live and move and have our being.”
- God is not confined to temples or rituals; He is actively involved in human life.

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

- 1. God Sees the Lonely Cry (Psalm 88:8–20)**
- 2. God Is Nearer Than We Think (Acts 17:22–31)**

Mother’s Day Connection:

- Mothers often pour themselves out quietly, without recognition.
- God sees every unseen act of love and faithfulness.
- Whether a mother feels confident or inadequate, God is not far away—He is present in every moment.

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

3. Faithful Love in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13–22)

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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3. Faithful Love in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13–22)

¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

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3. Faithful Love in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13–22)

²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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3. Faithful Love in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13–22)

Deep Dive:

- Peter acknowledges that doing good does not always protect us from suffering.
- Yet suffering is not meaningless when entrusted to God.
- Christ Himself suffered for righteousness and brought life through what looked like defeat.

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3. Faithful Love in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13–22)

Mother’s Day Connection:

- Many mothers suffer quietly:
 - Carrying burdens for their children
 - Loving through disappointment
 - Protecting others at personal cost
- Their faithfulness reflects Christ more than they may realize.

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

4. Never Left as Orphans (John 14:15–21)

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

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4. Never Left as Orphans (John 14:15–21)

²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

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4. Never Left as Orphans (John 14:15–21)

Deep Dive:

- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit—the Advocate, Helper, and Comforter.
- “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”
- “I will not leave you as orphans.”
- God’s presence is relational, not distant or abstract.

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4. Never Left as Orphans (John 14:15–21)

Mother’s Day Connection:

- Not everyone has had a nurturing mother.
- Not every mother has felt supported.
- Jesus declares that God Himself enters that space, offering spiritual comfort, guidance, and love.
- “As a mother hen protects her little ones”

“LOVED, SEEN, AND NEVER ALONE: THE GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR”

LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

God does not reject raw prayers. He listens even when hope feels distant.

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

God’s nearness does not depend on our performance, only on His grace.

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LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

God redeems suffering, turning perseverance into testimony and love into eternal impact.

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

God’s love fills the gaps where human love has failed or fallen short.

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What exactly does this mean for US?

Conclusion: A God Who Mothers His People

Taken together, these passages reveal a God who:

- Listens to painful prayers
- Draws near in ordinary life
- Honors faithfulness in suffering
- Promises never to abandon His children

Mother’s Day is not just about celebrating mothers—it is about celebrating the **heart of God**, whose love reflects the very best of motherly care and surpasses it infinitely.

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LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

Call to Action

For Mothers:

Bring both joy and weariness to God—nothing you carry is too small or too heavy for Him.

For the Church:

Actively support and honor the women who nurture, mentor, and care for others—biologically and spiritually.

For Everyone:

Open your heart to the Holy Spirit’s presence this week. Look for ways to reflect God’s compassionate love to someone who feels unseen or alone. ***