

Tell your mom one of the favorite things she does for you.

Introduction:

- This requires some thought: "The phrase 'working mother' is redundant."
 - "If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?" Milton Berle comedian
 - So many times mothers display patience when many a man would have given up. There was a mother pushing a shopping cart through Wal-Mart. Her daughter was riding in the cart, and she was continually screaming. Her mom kept saying, "Now calm down, Ellen. It will be all right, Ellen. It's almost time to go home, Ellen." One of the checkout clerks saw this and said, "Ma'am, you are to be commended at how patient you are with little Ellen." The Mom said, "Lady, I'm Ellen!"
 - Momster - is what happens to mom after she counts to three.
 - One mother said, "I child proofed my house, but they still got in."
 - "Having a two year old is like having a blender you don't have a top for." Jerry Seinfeld
 - "Toddlers are germ warfare machines in a cute package." Use your hand sanitizer well.
 - "My daughter asked what it was like to have kids. I interrupted her every 11 seconds until she cried."
 - A mothers love is unconditional. Her temper is another subject.
 - Remember Gandalf in Lord of the Rings? He is standing with staff as the Orks prepare to attack. He says that famous line, "So it begins." Moms say that every morning when their kids wake up.
- Hands reveal a lot about a person.
 - Both my father and grandfather are farmers. My Grandfathers hands were calloused, scared. My father's hands are calloused, some of his fingers are bent from having been broken. I watch my great grand daughter lay her hand on his last November. She had many questions as to why his fingers were strangely shaped. Why, his hands were so rough. Hands tell lots about us.
 - Jesus told Thomas reach your finger here and touch my nailed scared hands. Jn 20:27. Yes, hands tell us much about a person. It was just as important to Jesus that Thomas touched His hands as it was to Thomas to touch Jesus hands.
 - What can we learn from the hand of God? This morning I want to encourage everyone but especially all of you mothers. There are three things that I see in the hands of Jesus that I also clearly see in a mother's hands.
- I. His Hands Reveal He is Willing:** The first thing we learn from Jesus hand...He is willing!! If you have seen me you have seen the Father.
- A. In Luke 5:13 We find the story of Jesus who meets a man who is filled with leprosy. He cries out to Jesus, "*If you are willing you can heal me and make me clean.*" Such a cry of desperation from one in such an isolated place.
1. The leper was taking a risk. He was not to come around people. In fact religious law required a leper to be stoned if they came into public area without making people aware.

2. He had to shout in the presence of others. "Leper! Unclean!" He had to put up a wall for his own protection. How horrible is that? Yet so many people live that kind of life. Putting up walls for self protection.
- B. Notice Jesus response. This tell so much about Him. He puts His hand out. Luke writes: *"Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him."* (Luke 5:13, NKJV) Jesus did three things:
1. He put out His hand to the man. This demonstrated the willingness of Jesus to this man. It demonstrated the openness of Jesus life in welcoming this leper in.
 2. He touched him! This was an act that you just did not do with a leper.
 3. He clearly states after putting out His hand and the touching him, says, "I am willing."
 4. The out stretched hand showed he was willing! The touch revealed Jesus heart of compassion and His voice demonstrated the extent of Jesus' willingness to this isolated man. What ever your need this morning, I want you to know that Jesus is willing.
- C. Jesus took a risk in touching him. Yet he was not afraid of the man's sickness because He knew his authority. He is willing!
1. Jesus with an outstretched hand creates a welcoming atmosphere.
 2. Jesus touched the man. Demonstrating His compassion.
 3. Jesus spoke him...reassuring Him of both His willingness and compassion.
- D. Hands tell a lot about a person! The hands of Jesus tell a lot about Him!
- E. The Hands of mothers reveal much about them. When I think of a mother's hands I am reminded of the willingness of moms to reach out their hands to their children in so many of life's different situations. Maybe Jesus got that from His mom.
1. The leper asked, "If you are willing." There is no 'if' in a mothers hand. Children don't ask that question when in a place of pain/desperation. A mother's hands clearly demonstrate willingness. God help the mother who puts a child in the place where they have to put up a wall to protect themselves.
 2. A mom puts out her hand, comforts with her touch and like Jesus reassures with her words. IE. Dads be like, "Shake it off, get up, come on lets go."
 3. Moms "thank you" for your willingness, your touch and your tender words.
- II. His Hands Will Not Let You Sink:** The second thing we learn about Jesus hands...He won't let you sink!!!
- A. In Mt 14:31, We find the story of the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was on land praying. Jesus sent them out in the Sea of Galilee putting distance between He and His disciples. A severe storms falls upon them. And they think they all will drown.
1. They see Jesus and are afraid.
 2. Peter asks Jesus to ask him to come to him.
 3. He steps out of the boat walks on water and begins to sink.

4. Right when Peter begins to think that he is sunk, Jesus does something...
- B. *"And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?""* (Matthew 14:31, NKJV)
 1. If you step out in faith, all things become possible. If you step out in faith, stay in faith.
 - a) Believe for a miracle.
 - b) Believe to be saved.
 2. He will catch you! He will not let you sink!
- C. Many people never experience the healing touch of the hand of God because they never step out in faith to be caught by God. **When you are sinking cry out!!!**
 1. IE. I remember being filled with allergies. My eyes would swell shut. My lungs with fill asthma, my sinuses would become plugged. I took a step of faith.
 2. Ie. Motorcycle accident. I took a step of faith. Some people never take a step of faith because they do not want to be disappointed. They are afraid-God is not willing. That He will not catch them. BUT HE WILL!
- D. As moms, you are not going to let your children sink. Like Jesus you must put distance between you and your children. But like Jesus you must not let them sink.
 1. We watch our children mature and we must allow them to reach a place where there is distance between us and them.
 - a) It is part of the learning curve to maturity. IE. Whether they are learning to walk, spending that first night away from home, buying that first home. etc.
 - b) We have to let them have alone experiences. It is part of growing up. Jesus realized this about his disciples and moms have to realize this with their children.
 2. Jesus walking on water was an impossibility in the eye of the disciples.
 - a) As moms you have to let your children see the impossibilities of life and face them. Their response most times will be like the disciples...much afraid.
 - b) It is o.k. because at that point they stand before the door of faith deciding whether they will enter and walk by faith or stay in the security of the boat.
 3. And if they dare to step out and start to sink, moms like Jesus stretch out their hands so they do not sink. IE. When your child starts to walk and they begin to fall, what do you do. You stretch out your hand and catch them. Why? You love, you have compassion, you want them to try again.

III. His Hand Will Take Your Hand When You Cant Take His: Third thing...He will raise you up.

- A. Again, Hands tell us a lot about a person. In Luke 8:54 we once again see the hand of Jesus doing amazing things.
 1. Jairus, a leader of the synagogue come looking for Jesus because his daughter is dying. Jesus is momentarily detained and the man's only child/daughter dies.
 2. Jesus goes to the home. She is not dead only sleeping. Jesus sees what the family does not see. Faith gives us the power to do that.

3. He puts out all the doubters and with His calloused hand he takes the hand of the dead little girl, saying, "*Little Girl get up/arise.*"
- B. "*But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise."*" (Luke 8:54, NKJV) Jesus will take your hand when you cant take his! IE. Have you ever been in that place where you just had nothing left to give and felt God take you by the hand? You didn't have the strength, the courage, emotional fortitude to get and Jesus stretched out his hand and lifted you. IE tubing in Colorado caught in waterfall. It was my last try for a breath.
- C. Moms you have the ability to take your child's hand; speak to your child and command them to get up. It is not over until it is over! IE. Caleb born premature. He could not take Kelly's hand, but she could take his.
 1. Moms have the uncanny ability to see/discern with the eye of faith, when it come to their children, that it is time to get up. They may let you cry for a while. They may let you grovel for a while but at some point that momma is gonna grab you by the hand and say, "Get Up!"
 2. I have seen many a mom take their child by the hand in the midst of a failed project, failed relationship, a failed business and say, "Get UP!"
 3. There is something about a momma filled with faith saying to you, "Get up!" that inspires faith and strengthens and causes you to stand.
- D. Moms, you are so like Jesus in so many ways. When I think of His outstretch hand I remember my own mothers hand and my wife hand to the boys. The out stretched hand brings intimacy through compassion. The outstretched hand inspires confidence that we are not going under. The our stretched hand raises one up when there remains no hope of being raised. Moms, we love you!

Conclusion:

- The out stretched hand shows He is willing!
- The out stretched hand won't let you sink!
- The out stretched hand will raise you up!
- All three points today coming from the scripture have one thing in common. They all have to do with faith. Jesus stretched out his hand to get the leper to believe. Jesus stretched out his hand to keep Peter from sinking and helped him to walk on the water, increasing his trust. Jesus took hold of the dead girls hand to help the father to believe. Moms, next time you stretch out you hand to your children remember it is about getting them to believe...in God and in themselves.
- Invitation to receive Christ