

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“The Toughest Job”**

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” (Luke 13:34)**

### **Mother’s Empathy**

**Luke 2:33-35** – (33) “And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. (34) And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (35) (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’”

### **God’s Empathy**

**Isaiah 1:2** – “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: ‘Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.’”

**Hosea 11:1-4** – (1) “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. (2) The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. (3) Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. (4) I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.”

**Isaiah 66:13** – “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-8** – (7) “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. (8) So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

**2 Corinthians 12:15** – “I will gladly spend myself and all I have for you, even though it seems that the more I love you, the less you love me.” (NLT)

## **Bitter/Pleasant Experience**

**Ruth 1:19-21** – (19) “So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. ‘Is it really Naomi?’ the women asked. (20) ‘Don’t call me Naomi,’ she responded. ‘Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. (21) I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the LORD has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?’” (NLT)

**Ruth 4:14-15** – (14) Then the women of the town said to Naomi, ‘Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. (15) May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!’” (NLT)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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