**M3 – Gay Son:**

**Interviewer:** How old were you when you found out your son is gay?

**M3:** No, my child. What do you mean by how old was I? I already noticed in Grade 5 that he was different. Different from the other boys. I just realized he was gay, but I think he was too shy and didn’t even know himself what was happening. Before he told me, he came to me in high school, in Grade 8.

**Interviewer:** And how did he tell you?

**M3:** He just said, “Mom, I love a man and not a woman.” And it wasn’t even a shock to me because who am I? I was raised not to judge others. I loved my child and didn’t want to lose him.

**Interviewer:** What was your view on homosexuality before your child came out?

**M3:** Well, according to the Bible, as we were raised, I don’t believe it is the right thing. The Lord does not approve of it. But I also cannot decide for the Lord. It is a matter each person must sort out with the Lord. I just go on my knees and ask the Lord to be merciful to my child because I don’t have that knowledge.

**Interviewer:** How do you think his school life was, being gay?

**M3:** Look, no one actually knew about it. He had many girlfriends because my son is very attractive. So, at school, no one knew.

**Interviewer:** And did people perhaps suspect?

**M3:** No, not at all.

**Interviewer:**

If they knew he was gay, what do you think would have happened at school?

**M3:** They would have made him completely miserable at school. They would have expelled him.

**Interviewer:** Like, what do you think would have happened?

**M3:** I think they would have assaulted him, mocked him—you know, those kinds of things.

**Interviewer:** Do you think schools are homophobic?

**M3:** I think so.

**Interviewer:** Why?

**M3:** Because they are not informed about these things. We were raised to believe no one could talk about it. It’s forbidden, like the church saying that we will one day see everything clearly in a mirror. But that’s not how it is. The Bible is there, and if you read more deeply, you’ll see the truth in the mirror because the Lord reveals it to you.

**Interviewer:** If you knew at school that your child was gay and being bullied, what would you have done?

**M3:** I would have definitely taken him out of school. I would have homeschooled him or put him in a private school.

**Interviewer:** Would that have protected him?

**M3:** Yes, I think so.

**Interviewer:** How do you think gay children are treated in schools today?

**M3:** I think very poorly. I think parents have a very hard time dealing with it.

**Interviewer:** If the teachers knew he was gay, do you think they would treat him differently?  
**M3:** You see, everything depends on whether someone is the right person—whether the teacher is equipped to handle such a thing or not. Most of them are not informed and not prepared to handle it. They know too little about it.

**Interviewer:** If the school knew your child was being bullied, do you think the school would have done something about it?

**M3:** I think, again, it depends on who the several is and how they would handle it. Do you understand? I can’t say. But if I were the principal, I would have handled it. I would have brought in an expert to educate the staff on how to handle such a child.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say the school didn’t know, but you knew and found out your child was being bullied. What would you have done?

**M3:** I would have gone to them. I am honest enough to say, “This is the problem my child is experiencing.”

**Interviewer:** Let’s say he was openly bullied and told you, and you approached the school with the problem. Do you think it would have been the best way to handle it? How would you have done it?  
**M3:** Look, I don’t have all the wisdom to say it would have been the right step, but I would have done it to protect my child—to do everything to ensure he is happy and can complete his school career.

**Interviewer:** Do you think you were the first or the last to know he is gay?

**M3:** Look, we have known for a long time. We told his friends, and they accepted it. They handled it very well.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say there was a problem at school and at home. How do you think you, as parents, and the school could have worked together to help the child? Let’s say he was bullied—what could you have done together to help him?

**M3:** Well, I think we would have done all possible research about gay people and how they behave. I mean, they’re not monsters—they’re people like us. And yes, that’s what we would have done. Then we would have gone to the school and said, “This is the case. Where do we go from here?”

**Interviewer:** Considering a homophobic school environment, what could you, as a parent, do to reduce it?

**M3:** I would again say bring in experts to educate people. Today, there are many more gay children in schools, but the teachers and the few who know don’t talk about it.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think they don’t talk about it?  
**M3:** No, because I think they believe, in a way, they are protecting the child.

**Interviewer:** Let’s say the school didn’t treat him like other children. What would you have expected the school to do?

**M3:** The school should have called us as parents and said, “We are noticing such and such behavioral differences in your child.”

**Interviewer:** And do you think they would have done that?

**M3:** I believe so.

**Interviewer:** Do you think your child’s principal would have done that?

**M3:** Well, I think a good principal and good teachers work with people. They don’t work with robots, so they would have had to do it.

**Interviewer:** How do you think they would have handled it?

**M3:** I think they would have called us as parents and asked whether we were aware that Jarrod was different from the other boys. Then we would have told them, “Yes.”

**Interviewer:** If they said he was different, in what way? Like, your child is strange?

**M3:** Or like, “No, he dresses neatly, and he has more passion for boys than for girls or the feminine gender.”