

LOVE BETWEEN A MOTHER & HER SON

A. Perhaps in the most moving of all His words at the cross, are those spoken to His mother.

1. No one gave Him a better reason to come down from the cross; but no one gave Him more reason to stay on the cross either.

John 19:23-27

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be"; this was to fulfill the Scripture: "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS." 25 Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

I. THE LOVE OF A MOTHER FOR A SON

A. The Soldiers Divided His Garments.

1. One of their rewards for doing this gruesome job.

a. Despite all the pictures you have seen of Jesus on the cross, Rome crucified a man totally without clothing.

2. A Jewish man had five articles of clothing.

a. Sandals, turban, tunic (a gown-like undergarment), outer robe, girdle (belt).

B. His Mother Made The Garment.

1. It was customary for a mother to make her son a tunic when he left home, something special to go under the outer robe.
2. As these men were gambling for this tunic, Jesus "saw his mother" (26).

Now that's a very moving scene; it would be similar to a mother watching her child die after an accident had occurred, & there was nothing she could do for him except be near to comfort him as he took his last few breaths.

C. Mary Was Prepared For This Moment.

1. She doesn't faint...wail...go into hysterics.

Luke 2:16-19 – So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But **Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.**

Luke 2:9-11 – And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:13-14 – And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Luke 2:49-51 – And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. 51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and **His mother treasured all these things in her heart.**

2. The Scripture does not set up Mary as an object of our worship, but she did find favor with God.

Luke 1:28-30

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But **she was very perplexed** at this statement, and kept

pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; **for you have found favor with God.**

3. Imagine what it would have been like to be Mary.
 - a. From the start she was confused by what the angel said to her (Lk 1:29).
 - b. When Jesus was six weeks old, on his first trip to the Temple for purification, the prophet Simeon announced...
- Lk 2:34-35 – "**Behold, this Child is destined** for the fall & rising of many in Israel, & for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed".
 - c. Later, King Herod made a sweeping attempt to kill her child (Matt 2:16).
 - d. When Jesus was 12 He announced Who He was truly working for (Luke 2:46-51).
 - e. At thirty He left home to begin preaching the coming of the kingdom (Matt 4:17).

- f. After His first sermon at home, they took Him outside & tried to kill him (Lk 14:29).
- g. If that weren't enough, imagine how confused you might have felt when your Son told a large crowd that He had mothers & brothers & sisters who would do the will of His Father in heaven.

Matt 12:46-50 – While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother & brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. 47 Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother & Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.” 48 But He answered & said to the one who told Him, **“Who is My mother & who are My brothers?”** 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples & said, “Here are My mother & My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother & sister & mother.”

- h. She dealt with gossip, & the censure of Jewish religious officials.
- i. There was pressure at home from her other children who thought their brother was out of His mind.
- j. There was the rumor of the death threats against her son.
- k. It was not easy to be Jesus' mother.

- 4. But we shouldn't be surprised that she's at the cross; her whole life prepared her for that day.
 - a. But the sword that pierced her soul had never pierced more deeply than at the foot of the cross.
 - b. For three years she loved her Son from afar, but finally she was able to show her love for Him in His suffering, after many had deserted Him!

[So let us not ever forget that the Son of God was also, for a time, the Son of Man, the Son of Mary.]

II. THE LOVE OF A SON FOR HIS MOTHER

A. Words Of Love To A Mother.

1. Jesus saw the tortured faces of His mother & John.
2. So to lessen her pain, He pulled up, pushed up & took in enough air to say, *“Woman, behold your son”* (26).
3. Jesus wasn't saying “Look at Me”, He was saying “Look at John.”

- a. He's saying, "From now on John will be for you what I cannot be, your son."
4. Here at the moment of His death Jesus is still preparing for the future & serving others.
- a. He stopped to take care of the needs of one person: His mother
5. And that tells us something about God.
- a. He has a great plan, which He will providentially bring to completion.
 - b. But He also attends to the needs of each individual child of His.
6. This also tells us something about our own priorities with respect to our parents.
- a. We too may have great plans for our lives, which we hope that God will help us with.
 - b. But those plans in no way negated the responsibilities we have to our parents.
- c. In fact, it may be that our plans have to be set aside in order to do the right thing by our parents.
 - d. So often today, aging parents just seem to get in the way of their children's plans.
- B. Words Of Trust In His Friend.
1. Jesus took another breath, & said to John, "*Behold your mother*" (27).
 2. Mary is a widow by this time, & so Jesus is entrusting the care of His mother to John.
 3. Why John & not the *brothers* of Jesus?
 - a. They were not believers yet; they may have had their own families.
 - b. But John is dearer to Jesus than even His own brothers, at this point. {John may have been a cousin; Salome was Zebedee's wife & Mary's sister}.
 - c. But more importantly, John was not married.

- d. Text says, “From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.” (27).
- e. The word “household” is added for clarity; John literally took Mary as *his own* mother.
- f. His possessions were now hers’ to share including the love of family.

- a. We’re not just talking about taking care of them when they are old.
- b. What about the love & attention most of us got on a daily basis from our parents (Phil Smith).
- c. Doesn’t love necessitate caring for our parents in many of the same ways they cared for us for some 18-20 years?

[There are important lessons about relationships.]

III. LEARNING RELATIONSHIPS FROM THE LORD

A. “Don’t Neglect Natural Relationships”

Proverbs 23:22

22 **Listen to your father** who begot you, and **do not despise your mother** when she is old.

Ephesians 6:1-3

6 **Children, obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. 2 **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

- 1. Many people simply excuse themselves from doing for their parents what their parents so naturally did for them (Mk 7:11).

B. “Emphasize The Spiritual Relationships”

- 1. What Jesus did at the cross was emphasize a spiritual family.
- 2. He created a bond stronger than family ties, which are so important to most people.
- 3. The spiritual relationship enabled a woman to become the mother of another son.
- 4. Isn’t that what Jesus was talking about when He was teaching about discipleship?

Mark 10:29-31

29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My

sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 ***But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.***"

MARY & JOHN

TWO UNKNOWN IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

HEARD THE AFFECTIONATE WORDS OF THE SAVIOR

AND BECAUSE THEY WERE HIS DISCIPLES

THEY BECAME PROMINENT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD