

## The Son of God had a mother, too!

Scripture Reading: John 19:23-42

When Jesus was on the cross, He made seven statements

Luke 23:34 – “...Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do...”

Luke 23:43 – “...Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

John 19:26-27 – “... Behold your son...Behold your mother...”

Matthew 27:46 / Mark 15:34 – “... My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

John 19:28 – “... I thirst!”

John 19:30 – “...It is finished!”

Luke 23:46 – “... Father, into your hands I commit My Spirit...”

Most statements were made to His heavenly Father. One was made to his earthly mother.

*“When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”* (John 19:26-27)

The biggest event of all history was taking place. The Son of God was taking the sins of His people upon Himself. He, who never had sinned, was being punished for our sins, so that we could receive His righteousness, be saved from our guilt, and be able to fellowship with God forever. Days before, Jesus had entered triumphantly into Jerusalem, cast out the money changers, and taught the people. The night before, He and the disciples observed Passover and He instituted the Lord’s table. Christ was betrayed by one of His own disciples. He agonized in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, while the disciples slept through it. Jesus was abducted by soldiers, in the middle of the night, beaten and given an illegal, mock trial. Being turned over to Roman authorities, He was beaten and mocked more. Condemned to the agonizing death of the cross, Jesus was marched through town and crucified. Imagine the weight of pain and the thoughts that were on His mind as even the heavenly Father forsook His sinless Son on the cross and gave Him the filth and guilt of all our sins to bear upon His soul!

In the middle of all that, Jesus took a moment to make sure His mother would be cared for. He told Mary that she should look to the disciple John as a son, who would love her and oversee her needs. John was to treat Mary as if she were his mother. What does this teach us?

**“Honor your Mother” means more than being obedient children when you are young.** See Exodus 20:12; 21:17; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20. As adults we need to show love and respect to our parents, even though we are not under their direct authority anymore.

**“Honor your Mother” means more than being nice and saying nice words.**

It is about care and provision for them throughout life. See Matthew 15:1-6. Jesus exposed the loopholes that were created by the Pharisees. In this case, “Honor your father and your mother” meant to take care of them in their older years. However, a person could say that their money was a gift to God (i.e. dedicated to the temple). They did not have to give the gift immediately. They could wait until they died and bequeath it to the temple. So, they could have their wealth, not support their parents, and be justified. See I John 3:16-18.

Jesus had no wealth to give His mother, but he paid attention to her and was thoughtful of her needs. As he was departing from this earth, he made provision for her.

**“Honor your Mother” and other women as mothers.**

John was to take on this special care for Jesus’ mother as if she were his own mother. John would not deny the Lord by saying, “*She’s not my mother.*” There are situations where we might adopt a mother, one who is without family and in special need. It might only be for emotional support that we care for them. Nevertheless, we should have loving relationships with mothers, grandmothers and also childless women. See I Timothy 5:1-3.

This also speaks to us about our view of women in general. Many men (young and old) look at women for their beauty and sexual attractiveness – as if women are for entertainment. We should look at women in the context of God’s purposes. Young women are someone’s daughters and possibly some man’s wife or future wife. Older women are wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, or grandmothers. Any woman, regardless of their marriage status, whether they have children or not, can fill the role of a godly, loving influence towards others in the workplace and society.

When God said, “... *It is not good that the man should be alone...*” (Genesis 2:18), he was not just giving Adam a wife. God was giving all men the wonderful contributions that women make in this world. See Genesis 3:20 [Eve is “the mother of all living”]; Proverbs 31:30; I Timothy 5:2-3; Titus 2:3-5. Their love, compassion, creativity and wisdom have made this world a better place for us. Let us treat all women with respect and love – as God’s gift to us.