

Sunday Morning Message

May 8, 2022

Behold Thy Mother

The Gospel According to John

Text – John 19:25 - 27

Congregational Reading – John 19:25 - 27

Introduction

For Mothers' Day this year, I have chosen to examine the mother of the Lord Jesus, and to begin, we will look at this unusual reference at the end of the Gospel of John, which takes place at the foot of the Cross of Calvary just before the Lord Jesus gives up the Ghost and dies for the sins of the world.

Read the Passage

Here, on the Cross, Jesus honors His mother by making sure that she would be cared for after His death. Even though He knew that He would rise from the dead, He also was going to ascend into Heaven. His mother Mary would still be living here on the earth, and she needed to be cared for. Jesus entrusted that responsibility with the Beloved Disciple – John.

Today, we will examine a few aspects of the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus and see what we can use to encourage all mothers today.

I. The Magnificat of Mary Regarding the Birth of Christ (Luke 1:46 – 55)

In Luke's gospel, we have what is known as "the Magnificat," which is a Latin word meaning "magnify" and comes from the phrase in verse 46: "My soul doth magnify the Lord." In this song that Mary sings to God, she expresses her absolute delight in God, and what God was doing in and through her life. This song of praise that Mary sings after receiving the news from the angel regarding the Babe that was in her womb is certainly a wonderful song, but I contend that Mary's life at this point was already a song of praise.

A. She knew God and she knew His Word. According to Ryrie, "There are 15 discernible quotations from the OT in this poem, especially from the Psalms, showing how much the OT was known and loved in the home in which Jesus was reared."¹ "Mary hid God's Word in her heart and turned it into a song."²

¹ Ryrie, C. C. (1994). *Ryrie study Bible: King James Version* (Expanded ed., p. 1526). Chicago: Moody Press.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 173.

Practical Point – Mom, the best thing that you can do for your family is to get to know God in a deeper and more intimate way. Trust Him as your Saviour, and then walk with Him daily. Spend time every day, reading and studying His word, and praying to Him about all that is going on in your life.

- B. She was a virgin (Read Luke 1:26 – 35) – The word, “virgin” (παρθένος - *Parthenos*), means exactly what we think it means, a person (man or woman) who has not had any sexual intercourse. This tells us that Mary could say no to her flesh. We may think that it was unheard of back in this New Testament period, and especially in a devoutly Jewish home for young people to be intimate before they were officially married, but I think that it was more common than you might think. First, the Old Testament Law provided instructions regarding what to do when young people “jumped the gun” and became physically intimate before they were married. Human nature is human nature. The temptation to sin back then was the same as it is today. Yet, Mary and Joseph both resisted the temptation to sin. That tells me that by saying no to their flesh, they were willing to do what was right for their family, even before they had a family.

Practical Point – too many moms and dads are consumed with satisfying their own fleshly desires rather than fulfilling the will of God and doing what is best for their families.

Mom – Yield to the will of God for your life. Learn to say no to the things that will negatively impact your relationship with God, and ultimately will hurt your family. The best thing that you can do for your family is to live for God.

- C. She followed all the commandments and traditions of Judaism (Luke 2:22 – 24; 41). She devoutly practiced her faith. She taught her children (Deuteronomy 6:6-10) also (Paul said this also regarding Timothy’s mom and grand mom - 2 Timothy 1:5).

II. The Motherhood of Mary During the Life and Ministry of Christ

For many years, Mary lived her life as many other mothers. She fed Jesus and cared for His needs, as well as the needs of the rest of her family. She had a husband, though it appears that sometime after Jesus was twelve years old, His stepfather Joseph died. Joseph is not mentioned again after Luke 2:41 – 52.

Mary also had other children that she needed to care for. When Jesus visited Nazareth, some of the people said:

"[55] Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? [56] And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?" (Matthew 13:55-56)

When Jesus begins His earthly ministry, Mary is often recorded as being with Jesus, but it also appears that she was still caring for her other children, though they may all have been adults by that time, certainly the youngest of them were older teenagers.

Mary's relationship with Jesus certainly changed when His earthly ministry had begun. She had to stop looking at Him as her little child and start receiving Him as her Saviour.

Lester Roloff once said that Mary gave Jesus His earthly birth, but Jesus had to give Mary her second birth. Mary needed to be born-again through faith in Christ, just like all of us do.

The Gospels paint the picture that Mary was fully engaged in her Son's ministry, but she was also very involved in the lives of her other children.

Practical Point – Mom, you need to find the balance between family and ministry. God is your first priority, but your husband and family are your main ministry. Balance is key. Don't neglect your relationship with God, and don't postpone serving God in ministry until after your children are grown. But also, don't become too consumed with church ministry to the point that you are neglecting your family.

III. The Ministration of God to Mary

Back in our text in John 19:25 – 27, we see that Jesus made sure that His mother was cared for. He always honored His mother, but here at His death, He did not neglect the earthly responsibility of taking care of His mother. He made sure that the Apostle John was going to care for her needs.

Jesus had a lot going on when He was on the Cross dying for the sins of the world, but He was not too busy to take care of His mother.

"[8] But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Timothy 5:8)

It is interesting that Jesus did not give this responsibility to His younger brothers. You would think that Mary's own children would be the ones who would need to take on the responsibility of caring for their mother. However, you will recall that Jesus' brothers did not become believers until after the resurrection (John 7:5). Jesus knew that if his brothers did not love God, neither could they truly love their mother. Because John had God's love abiding in him, he was the better choice to love and care for His mother.

Conclusion

Moms

1. Have the right priorities in your life.

God must come first as far as relationship is concerned. He must take preeminence over your husband and your children.

As far as your ministry is concerned, your family must come before the church, and before your work responsibilities.

2. Raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Teach your children to love God.

Teach your children to walk with God.

Teach your children to be faithful to God.

Teach your children to serve God.

You do this by both exhortation and through example.

3. Learn to say no to your flesh.

Yield your will to the will of God. Say no to sin. Say no to the things that will weigh you down spiritually. Be the right example to your children.

Children

1. Honor your mom.

"[1] Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. [2] Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) [3] That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

2. Obey her.

3. **Care for her needs.** Nobody outside of your family should have to care for the needs of your mother. She cared for you when you were young, you need to make sure that she is cared for when she is older.

These are basic family responsibilities. America is dying today because we have abandoned these basic principles. We need to get back to them, especially in our Christian homes.