

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

About His Mother

TEXT: John 19:25-27

INTRODUCTION: If you looked at the sermon title, it might have stirred a question in your mind, "What did Jesus say about His mother Mary?"

The answer to that question is found in

John 19:25-27 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

In context, Jesus was simply making sure His earthly mother was cared for following His death, resurrection, and ascension back into heaven. He was actually being lovingly obedient to the fifth commandment to honor your father and your mother.

Jesus spoke of John the Apostle who stood by Mary at the foot of the cross. And Jesus said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son."

This is one of those places that good translation of the Greek into English is nearly impossible. To us, Jesus addressing His mother as "woman" sounds curt and disrespectful. That is not true at all in either the Greek or the Aramaic which is probably what Jesus actually spoke from the cross. The best translation might be something like "My dear lady" although even that sounds far more formal than the meaning in the Palestinian culture.

Just understand that in this moment, Jesus was not being either short or formal with the woman who had been His earthly mother. He was being nothing but loving and caring, even during His own agony on the cross.

So, He was saying to Mary, from now on, John will be a son to care for you even through your old age.

Then Jesus looked to John and said, "Behold, your mother," saying, "Take care of her for Me, John, like she was your own mother."

Today, being Mother's Day, I want us to all take Jesus' words to John quite literally and look at Mary. For there are things about the life of Mary that we learn from Scripture that provides instruction to us all, male and female alike.

I. MARY WAS WILLING TO SERVE GOD EVEN THOUGH IT COST HER POPULARITY WITH PEOPLE.

I explained a couple of weeks ago about the process of marriage and weddings among the Jews.

Engagement

Betrothal without consummation

Preparation

Wedding Feast

It was during the time that Joseph was preparing a place for them to live that the angel appeared to Mary and told her she had been chosen to bear the Messiah, to bring the Son of God into the world.

And she responded, "How can this be because I do not know a man."

And the angel told her that the child would be conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Mary did not say it, but I have to think she thought, "And who do you think is going to believe that?" Mary knew people would not believe that.

Yet she still said yes to God.

And people did not believe her child was of the Holy Spirit.

A. Not Society

We glimpse that people never bought her story when later in Jesus' life they insinuate that either He was born of Joseph or some other fornicator.

B. Probably not her Parents

We do not know their reaction. They may have been believing and supportive. But even if they were, Mary could not have been sure of their reaction prior to surrendering to God's will for her to be the mother of Jesus.

C. Not her Peers

D. Not even Joseph

Initially, Joseph did not believe her. He was going to put her away privately and end their engagement until the Lord intervened by sending an angel to convince him that what Mary said was true.

The point is not so much who reacted how and at what time. The point is that Mary did not know what others would say or do. She risked rejection and ridicule to obey God.

Do we do that?

Will you do that?

When you discover what God clearly says, is that all that matters?

Or do you weigh the reaction of people around you? Your spouse, boss, friends, folk at office?

By her example Mary clearly teaches us what Jesus so precisely put in words,

Luke 9:24 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

II. MARY REMAINED A HUMBLE SERVANT WHEN FAME AND EXALTATION WERE WITHIN HER GRASP.

Finally, some people did come to believe. They understood that she was the virgin mother of the Messiah.

Joseph
The shepherds
The wise men
Elizabeth and John

Later John the Baptist
the apostles

Then after the resurrection, more than 500 disciples

and then the thousands at Pentecost and beyond

All in her lifetime!

Yet the Biblical testimony is that Mary never moved to the forefront of the Christian movement.

- In the gospels, after the narration of the events of Christ's birth, Mary moves to the back row of attention.
- She is only mentioned concerning three events in Jesus' life before we see her at the foot of the cross.
- Not only does the Scripture give a clear lack of emphasis to Mary,
- but in the three events in which she is mentioned, Jesus makes a comment in each one which clearly shows that just because Mary was His earthly mother, she is not in a position of preeminence relative to Him or to the Father.
- The last reference in the Scripture to Mary is in Acts 1:14 where she is mentioned as being among Jesus' disciples.
- She is not mentioned again. She occupied no position of leadership or influence as Christianity grew and spread.

I say this not to in any way denigrate Mary.

Rather I point out these observations from the Scripture to compliment the example she gives us in her life.

Especially after Jesus ascended, **Mary could easily have pushed herself to a position of influence and fame.**

But she did not. Raising Mary to a position of prominence did not occur until nearly 300 years after she died.

So what is here illustrated? The teaching of Christ on humility. "Blessed are the poor in spirit." and

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

And it behooves us all to ask, male and female,

- **"Have you been able to keep a humble spirit when God grants you success or suddenly thrusts you to the forefront?"**

- “Are you able to recognize that it is the power and will of God accomplishing that good thing in your life and not you yourself?”

Mary did. In that way she is an example to us all.

III. MARY REMINDS US THAT WE ARE ALL SINNERS IN NEED OF A SAVIOR.

Mary was a sinner in need of a Savior.

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

- **Mary was a humble Jewish girl born in sin just as all the rest of mankind.** She acknowledged her need of a Savior.
- **She trusted Christ personally and was counted as one of His disciples.**
- **Mary is in heaven not because Jesus was born of her, but because she was born again because of Him!**
- **The doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary,** which states that Mary was born without original sin, **was originated in the 13th century** and was not adopted as doctrine by the Roman Catholic Church until 1854.
 - **In the Scriptures, Mary is not a co-redemptrix, one who shares in the work of redemption.**
 - **She is a sinner who found redemption herself in Christ.**

Acts 4:10-12 10 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Mary was a sinner in need of a Savior.

And so are all of us!

CONCLUSION:

Have you come to the place to recognize that is who you are?

More than anything else, above all else, before all else - we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

Some of us have Him as our Savior because we have trusted in Him.

Have you trusted Jesus and made Him Lord of your life?