

A Mother's Finest Hour

John 19:25-27

Introduction:

The family is a sacred institution established by God for the flourishing of His image bearers. As God exists in a triune familial relationship, so too has He created us to thrive in families. The role of mother took on extra meaning when, after the fall, God said that her seed would crush the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15), and that while the fall has caused the quintessentially womanly act of child bearing to be painful, it will end in her salvation if she trusts in her Child whose death atones for her sin (1 Tm. 2:15). The scene at the cross where Jesus speaks to His mother is rich with meaning as we take time to ponder the example of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

1. Her love was greater than her fear

Jesus brings out the worst in sinners. To identify with Him requires great courage which can only come with an all surpassing love (Lk. 2:33-35;). This is why loving Jesus more than anything is the acid test of true discipleship (Mt. 10:37; 1 Jn. 4:8).

2. Her pain was both as a mother and a sinner

Mary's heart was pierced (Lk. 2:35) as any mother's would be; it is the price of motherhood. But the cross exposes sin, hers included. This is a thought that pierces the heart of every broken sinner (1 Jn. 2:2; Acts 2:37).

3. Her friends were a carefully cultivated support group

Good friends support each other in hard times. Mary (and even Jesus), is a good example of a person who is rich in wholesome relationships (Heb. 3:13; 1 Thes. 5:11).

4. Her family became the church of Jesus Christ

Mary became a mother in the new community that Jesus was creating. The church of Jesus MUST be careful to embrace newcomers because of who they are in Jesus. Who are our mothers, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters? (Mk. 3:35; Philemon).

Conclusion:

Have you followed Jesus to the cross and realized that it was for you He died? Has your heart been pierced? Have you been forgiven and added to the family of Jesus?

Talking about it?

Simple questions:

1. Why were so few disciples at the cross?
2. Why did Jesus entrust Mary to John?
3. Why is it so dangerous to follow Jesus?

Hard questions:

1. Can you extend family status on people who are not blood, but are Christians?
2. What does it mean to be "saved through childbearing"?
3. Who are the "mothers" in our church whose care has been entrusted to us?
4. Do you have friends who would come with you on a difficult, dangerous and painful trip?