

Mary: A Mother Who Gave
05/12/2019 Sunday AM

Scripture: John 19:25-27, Proverbs 31:30-31

Introduction

- This morning we honor all mothers because that is what the Bible tells us to do.
- **Exodus 20:12** says, "'Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.'"
- Everyone present today is either a mother, or you at least have a mother.
- The 5th commandment does not give us an option of honoring our parents, it is a command with benefits of a long life that come with keeping it.
- This morning we are going to discuss **Mary: A Mother Who Gave**.
- Motherhood often comes with a great deal of sacrifice and Mary the mother of Jesus, found that to be true.

John 19:25-27

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," ²⁷and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- Losing a child has to be one of the most painful things any parent could possibly go through.
- With that being said, losing a child is one thing, but watching your child be crucified is on another level.
- I cannot imagine the intense pain that Mary went through as she stood "near the cross" and watched them brutally kill her son.
- It is this type of thought process that has led parts of Christianity like the Catholics to elevate Mary to an almost superhuman level.
- The reality is that Mary was not divine, she was 100% flesh and blood human just like everyone of us.
- That is what makes her so remarkable, and that is why she should be respected just like many others in the Bible.
- As a parent, one can ask themselves, how? How was Mary able to stand near the cross and watch her son die this way?
- One of the reasons was that after 33 years, she had come to accept that Jesus was in fact the Son of God.
- **Luke 1:30-33**, "³⁰But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'"
- Mary knew from the beginning that she would have to "sacrifice" Jesus as far as understanding that he was destined to do great things for his Father.
- However, I am not sure that Mary ever understood that she would have to give him up to a cruel Roman cross in the way that she was experiencing standing on Calvary.
- John goes on to record Jesus saying, "'Dear woman, here is your son,' ²⁷and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'"
- That statement gets passed over a lot because we are all focused on Jesus, as we should be.
- However, if we will just consider Mary for a moment, we will realize this statement would have impacted her profoundly.
- Jesus' crucifixion impacted many of the people that were present that day. The disciples were "losing" their teacher, but Mary was giving up her firstborn son.
- The other reason that Mary was able to cope with these events that were taking place is that she was a woman who clearly "feared the Lord."
- This doesn't mean that she was "scared" of God, it means that she "respected" and "revered" God.

Proverbs 31:30-31

“³⁰Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

- Mary was a righteous woman who feared God and there is no disputing that.
- It was only because she was able to lean on God and trust him fully, that she was able to give her precious “Gift” away in the way that she did it.
- Mary embodies characteristics of motherhood that should be respected and modeled by every parent today.
- As parents, we must realize that our children are first and foremost, God’s.
- He has given us the honor and privilege to raise them on this earth, but they always have been and always will be His.
- Mary understood this in a greater way than most mothers will have to, and that is why she is **A Mother who Gave.**

- The most important characteristic for a successful mother is to be “a woman who fears the LORD.”
- If you are seeking to be a mom in the way God wants you to be, start here.
- Just like Mary, you will need to lean upon the Almighty at many points and will need to draw strength and encouragement from Him.
- A mother who fears the Lord is about the closest thing this world has to a superhero!
- Parenting in general is a sacrificial responsibility, however motherhood seems to require a lot more “personal” sacrifice than fatherhood and that is why we take days like today to honor that sacrifice that you all make and that your mom’s have made for you.
- You are to be “praised at the city gate!”

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Romans 13:8-14