

SERMON NOTES - Mothers Day 2023

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

There were several women around Jesus as he died and afterwards. Apart from Mary Jesus' mother, there were other mothers too:

Jhn 19:25 NKJV - "25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus **His mother**, and **His mother's sister**, **Mary the wife of Clopas**, and **Mary Magdalene**."

Mat 27:55-56 NKJV - "55 And **many women who followed Jesus from Galilee**, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, 56 among whom were **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary the mother of James** ("the less" Mk 15) **and Joses**, and **the mother of Zebedee's sons**." (Salome Mk 15:40)

Mat 27:61 NKJV - "61 And **Mary Magdalene** was there, and the **other Mary**, sitting opposite the tomb."

Mat 28:1, 7-9 NKJV - "1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, **Mary Magdalene** and the **other Mary** came to see the tomb. ... 7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." 8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, **Jesus met them**, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him."

Zebedee: Zebedee was a rich fisherman with servants (Lk 5:11)(Mk 1:20) and his sons left fishing to follow Jesus.

Let's look at these MOTHERS:

1. 2. Mary the mother of James (the less) and Joses, the wife of Clopas

Her son, James the less, was one of the disciples. She witnessed the crucifixion, was watching the tomb, and was a witness of the resurrection.

Her son was "the less". Her other son was not even a disciple (Joses), and yet she was one of the key people - she witnessed the empty tomb and the resurrection, holding Jesus' feet, and was told to tell the news to the disciples.

2. Salome - Mother of James and John (Zebedee's sons). Mary's sister?

Her sons, James and John, were key leaders in the 12 disciples. They were called by Jesus "Boanerges"/"sons of thunder" (Mk 3:17) because of their fiery temperament. They wanted to call down fire on a city that didn't receive Jesus:

Luk 9:54-56 KJV - "54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Mat 20:20-28 NKJV - "20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." 23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

Jhn 19:25 NKJV - "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."

Mar 10:29-30 NKJV - "29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life."

Romans 16:1-15 - a list of Paul's friends and workers in the Christian Church. A great example of the new dynamic in the body of Christ - we gain new brothers, sisters, mothers etc

But later James was the first Martyr for Christ and John was the disciple of love, who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the last supper, and who speaks so tenderly and lovingly in his epistles.

At the crucifixion Salome

- Sees Jesus' death -
- Sees the 2 thieves on either side of Jesus at the crucifixion and the scene at the crucifixion would have shown her the "cup" that Jesus was referring to.

3. Mary - Jesus' mother

She was visited by an angel and received God's message with faith and humility.

She brought up Jesus and this involved discipline -

Heb 5:8 NKJV - "8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."

She had to "let go" as He grew up -

Jhn 2:3-5 NKJV - "3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it.""

She worshipped Him and was present at Pentecost -

Act 1:14 NKJV - "14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

4. Final thoughts

- Motherhood is an important but difficult role.
- There are many skills needed but worshipping God is the best qualification for the role.
- Put God first - this is the best gift you can give your children

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.