

The Word of Affection

Jn 19:25-27

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

Introduction:

1. When the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she would give birth to the Messiah we are told that she was “troubled at his saying.”
 - a. It was no light matter for Mary to become the mother of God’s Son in this mysterious and unheard of way.
 - b. Mary’s reputation suffered and her faith no doubt was greatly tried
 - c. In Lu 1:38 we see her quiet submission to the will of God...

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.
 - d. She had been troubled at the announcement of God’s messenger but it was just the beginning of trials and sorrows
2. She felt sorrow when there was no room in the inn and she had to lay her newborn in the manger.
3. What fear and anguish must have been hers when she learned that King Herod had determined to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem.
4. What trouble must have been hers when she and Joseph were forced to flee to Egypt for safety
5. What anguish she felt when she saw her Son despised and rejected of men and hated and persecuted by his own nation!

6. And now she stands at the cross?

7. Arthur Pink said, "If Christ was the man of sorrows, was she not the woman of sorrows?"

I. WE SEE THE FULFILLMENT OF SIMEON'S PROPHECY

Lu 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

1. Old Simeon waited by the temple for the arrival of the Messiah
 - a) *The Lord had told him that he would not die till he saw the Son of God*
 - b) *Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord as was required by the Mosaic Law.*
 - c) *It was then that old Simeon, who waited for the Consolation of Israel, took him into his arms and blessed God.*

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Lu 2:29-32)

- d) *Then he turned to Mary and said:*

"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul

also.) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed"
(Lu 2:34-35).

2. What was Simeon talking about? Could it be that the greatest of all privileges was to bring with it the greatest of all sorrows?
 - a) *It seemed most unlikely at the time Simeon spoke.*
 - b) *Yet it did come to pass!*
 - c) *Here at the cross was this prophecy of Simeon fulfilled.*

3. After the days of his infancy and childhood, and during all the public ministry of Christ, we see and hear so little of Mary.
 - a) *Her life was lived in the background, among the shadows.*
 - b) *But now, at the time of her Son's agony, she stands there by the cross!*
 - c) *Try to imagine the picture?*
 - d) *Mary was nearest to the cruel tree!*
 - e) *Full of faith and hope, yet baffled and paralyzed by the strange scene, yet bound with the chain of love to her dying Son, there she stands!*
 - f) *O what a sword it was that pierced her soul then!*

4. No, she wasn't wildly hysterical as she gazed on Jesus.
 - a) *There was no uncontrollable anguish; no fainting.*
 - b) *Not a word that fell from her lips has been recorded by the gospel writers.*
 - c) *She could do nothing.*
 - (1) *She remembered those days when Jesus was little when he skinned his knee and she cleaned it and kissed it all better.*
 - (2) *She recalled times of sickness when she mopped the fevered brow of her son.*
 - (3) *But now, all she could do was just stand there gazing on the cross.*

5. The crowds were mocking, the thieves were taunting, the priests were jeering, the soldiers were callous and indifferent, the Saviour was bleeding, dying - and there was his mother beholding the horrible mockery.
6. It is surprising that she did not faint at such a sight! Some would have turned and fled from such a gory scene!
7. In 19:25 **Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother**
 - a) *What courage.*
 - b) *What marvelous fortitude.*

We have seen the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy....

II. WE SEE JESUS SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR CHILDREN TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS - EX 20:12

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

A. The Fifth Commandment is Not Addressed to Young Children Only

1. The fifth commandment has not been repealed - children are to honor their parents
2. Children honoring their parents goes beyond simple obedience during childhood.
3. This commandment does not lose force when childhood is left behind
4. It includes love and affection, gratitude and respect along with the requisite obedience during childhood
5. Just because the child grows to adulthood does not mean that his obligations to his parents have ceased
6. We owe our parents a debt which we can never fully discharge.
7. We need to hold our parents in high esteem, to put them in the place of superiority
8. Jesus' tender care for his mother gives us an example of children honoring their parents

9. During his childhood years Jesus was under the control of Mary his mother and Joseph his legal father.

- a) *When he was 12, Jesus was taken by them to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the Passover.*
- b) *At the close of the feast Joseph and Mary departed for Nazareth, accompanied by their family and friends they supposed that Jesus was with them in the caravan.*
- c) *After a day's journey Jesus' absence was discovered.*
- d) *At once they turned back to Jerusalem, and there they found him in the temple.*

Lu 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

- e) *They sought Jesus "sorrowing" because nothing like this had ever happened before*
 - f) *"Wist ye not..." is not a rebuke of Joseph and Mary. He is saying "Mother, surely you know me well enough to know that nothing could detain me but the affairs of my Heavenly Father."*
 - g) *They went home together and Jesus was subject to them.*
10. Jesus' years of obedience to Mary and Joseph had ended but not the years of "honoring them."
11. So, in the last hours of his human life, amid the infinite sufferings of the cross, the Lord Jesus thought of her who loved him and whom he loved;
12. On the cross Jesus provided for Mary's future needs by committing

her to the apostle John.

B. Jesus Didn't Disrespect His Mother When He Called Her, "Woman"

26 Woman, behold thy son!

1. Jesus was not disrespecting his mother when He called her "woman."
 - a) *In the four gospels, Jesus never called Mary, "mother"*
 - b) *Perhaps he looked down the centuries with omniscience and saw that Mary would be worshipped*
 - c) *He knew that she would be called "The mother of God"*
 - d) *So he refrained from using the word "mother" so as to not countenance this idolatry*
2. Jesus commending his mother to John's care would be better understood if she was a widow
 - a) *Though the gospels do not mention the death of Joseph there is little doubt that Joseph died sometime before Jesus began His public ministry*
 - b) *Nothing is heard of Joseph after the incident when Jesus was 12 yrs old*
 - c) *As a widow she would need the care and support of John*

C. A Word of Exhortation

1. Are either or both of your parents living?
2. Then do what you can to honor them
3. Don't let this example of Christ on the cross put you to shame?

Jesus set the example of children honoring their parents

III. WE SEE THAT JOHN HAD RETURNED TO THE SAVIOR'S SIDE

A. The Apostles Forsook Their Lord - Matt 26:56

56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

1. It was bad enough and sad enough that his own people, the Jews, should despise and reject him
2. But it was far worse that the Eleven, who had been so long with him, should desert their Lord in the hour of crisis.
3. They failed to "watch" with Jesus for one hour in the Garden of Gethsemane
4. But their turning away from him at the time of his arrest and crucifixion is supremely sad

B. Jesus Had Warned the Apostles Of Their Coming Cowardice

Matt 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. 32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. 33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended. 34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

1. And not Peter only but all of the apostles affirmed their determination to stand by him:
2. Jesus said that all the apostles would be “offended” because of Him
3. The apostles locked themselves in the upper room for fear of the Jewish religious leaders.

C. The Cowardice of the Apostles was Only Temporary

1. Later, they *sought* him at the appointed place in Galilee (Mt 28:16).
2. One apostle did show up at the cross and there is no mention of any

others standing around the cross

3. John, the apostle whom Jesus loved, stood before the cross and there received this blessed commission from his Master

John had returned to the Savior's side

IV. WE SEE A UNIVERSAL NEED EXEMPLIFIED

In 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

1. "Woman, behold thy son!"
2. This is the *need* of every descendant of Adam...
 - a) *Stop looking at the world...*
 - b) *Take your eyes off yourself...*
 - c) *And look by faith to the Saviour who died for sinners.*
3. The way of salvation, deliverance from the wrath to come, forgiveness of sins, acceptance with God, is obtained not by good deeds, not by good works, not by religious ordinances; no, salvation comes by beholding
4. John the Baptist said, "Behold the *Lamb of God* which taketh away the sin of the world".
5. Just as the serpent-bitten Israelites in the wilderness were healed by a look, by a look at that which Jehovah had appointed to be the object of their faith, so today, redemption from the guilt and power of sin, emancipation from the curse of the broken law and from the captivity of Satan, is to be found alone by faith in Christ

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

6. There is life in a look.
7. Have you looked in faith to Christ. Have you seen him dying on the cross the just for the unjust, that he might bring sinners to God?
8. Mary the mother of Christ needed to "behold" him, and so do *you*. Then look, look unto Christ and be saved.

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