

Taking Care of Mom
John 19:25-27

May 12, 2013 (Mother's Day)

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Text Introduction: Our text today comes from the moment of Jesus' crucifixion. Often, when people analyze the words of Jesus spoken from the cross, they will point to seven such sayings. All seven of the sayings do not appear together in any one of the four Gospels, but combining the Gospels' accounts, we get 7 sayings. Most are packed with theology. For example, we hear Jesus say...

1. Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.
2. I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.
3. My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?
4. It is finished!
5. Father, into thy hands, I commit my spirit.

Two more seem to be more personal. In one instance, Jesus, simply spoke of a very basic need when He said, "I am thirsty."

The remaining saying from the cross seems equally personal, yet perhaps it is packed with more theology than we consider at first glance. Since the saying deals with His mother, Mary, it is our subject of today's study on this Mother's Day. Let's look at the text.

Text: ²⁵ Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing there, He said to His mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Introduction: I sincerely hope that, if your Mother is alive, you have taken care of her today. I ran across a survey this week that indicated what women wanted this year for Mother's Day. The poll indicated that Mothers wanted: flowers (18%), spa day (18%), gift cards (15%), and jewelry (15%). I also ran across another article that indicated the worst gifts you could get. Number one on the list was a diet or fitness product. Number two was wrinkle cream. Roses came next. The article said instead our mothers want carnations on Mother's Day. A pet, cleaning equipment, bath stuff, and potpourri also headed up the list of what not to buy for your mothers.

Our text today shows us a very touching scene of Jesus taking care of His mother.

The Setting:

Several clues in the setting of this story make this a powerful text.

1. Obviously, this is a very tender and personal moment in the midst of the most important event in history.

2. It was common in other crucifixions of this day for the dying man to dispose of his assets on the cross. Jesus, of course, had no assets, save the very important asset of his earthly mother.
3. The absence of any mention of Joseph has led many to conjecture that Joseph was perhaps deceased by this time. If so, how much more important for Jesus to make certain that his mother was protected and provided for.
4. In Jewish custom, the oldest son was to make provision for his mother in the event that the father was not available.
5. Jesus speaks to his mother with the word, “woman” which is the most tender way possible. That sounds unusual to us, but not in the language of Jesus’ culture.
6. Jesus speaks in the most legal way possible. He was making legal provision for his mother.
7. Though possibly a cousin, the beloved disciple is not Jesus’ brother—he is one of the disciples.

From this setting, what is it that we learn?

God ordained the family in order to provide the most important functions in this life. We need family. In the family we learn to

- Love
- Care
- Feel
- Honor

If we don’t learn these human emotions here, there is little hope that we will learn these things elsewhere. Certainly, this points us to the attention that the family ought to have.

God expands the role of the family to the church. We are in this thing together. I see this in the text because the assignment is given to a disciple. The disciple followed through with the assignment.

So What? Five Key Words about the Family to take home with you today!

- Privilege—Here’s the thing about recognizing the privilege that goes with being part of a family. You don’t abuse your family. You don’t neglect your family.
- Practical—Jesus, even though dying, is thinking about the practical ministry of providing for his mother.
- Priority—This text screams priority to me. With the weight of humanity’s sin pressing on Him, Jesus takes time for His mother. That shows the priority. Give priority to the relationships of family—both biological and spiritual!
- Principle—Jesus is acting in part off of a very basic Biblical principle to honor our father and mother. Give honor in the relationships of family—both biological and spiritual!

- **Price**—Just note that there will be a price to be paid. There was a price for Mary in this relationship. There was obviously a price for Jesus. What's often overlooked is that there is a price for the beloved disciple. When we see the family as a privilege, when we think upon the practical nature of God's design in the family, when we think upon the priority of family, when we seek to apply the principle of honor in family, there will always be a price to be paid.

As such, this picture becomes a picture of the Gospel.

I got to see an amazing picture of this very thing this week. Most of you know the story. Tina Gilbert, wife of our chairman of deacons, about two years ago was diagnosed with a liver disease. After months of failed treatments without much temporary relief, and no cure, Tina received a partial new liver this past Wednesday. Tina's new liver was donated from her oldest son, Chad, a pastor in New Orleans. Her other son, Blake, was also willing and tested, but Chad was the better match. Part of his liver was removed and will regenerate back. Privilege? Yes! Practical? Yes! Priority? Yes! Principle of honoring his mother? Without question! Price? Silly question!

So, what are you doing for your mother this Mother's Day?