

Day Twenty-One

Jesus: Real, Relevant, Raw and Radical!

What About Mom?

John 19:25-27(NLT) Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷ And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Standing near the cross was Mary. Mary, the woman who birthed the very Son of God. Mary, the mother of Jesus. What is going through Mary's mind as she stands there looking at Jesus? Imagine the pain. Imagine the agony. Imagine the emotions. In my mind's eye, I can see the women holding onto each other for support. Mary is holding her sister Mary, who is holding Mary Magdalene. Tears are flowing down their cheeks as they look at the unrecognizable face of Jesus. **As Jesus' blood is flowing from the cross, Mary's tears are falling to the ground.** The urge to do something must have been overwhelming. The anguish within her soul is unbearable. Moms are quick to run to their children when they get hurt or even just scrape a knee. They are always ready to put on a band-aid or to simply kiss the pain away. Mary must have felt helpless. As she weeps, she remembers...

There are very few things that can compare to the joy of being a Mom. (I have it from two reliable sources, my wife and my mother). The joy of having children is one of the great blessings of life (until they are teenagers). We all enter this world through the wombs of our mothers. There is no other way to get here. Jesus came into this world just like us. He was born of a woman. ***"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law."***

For Jesus, that woman is Mary. The gospels do not record a lot about Mary because it is written about Jesus, not Mary. But we know several things about Mary. She was a righteous woman. She was willing to obey God despite the risk to her own life. She knew the Word and kept the Word of God in her heart. She gave birth in difficult circumstances and had to flee to Egypt with Joseph and Jesus. When they came back, they settled in Nazareth. For all intents and purposes, things would seem quite ordinary. They made trips to Jerusalem for sacred festivals, and lost Jesus during one of these trips. Time went by, Jesus is now much older, and they are invited to a wedding. ***John 2:3-5(NLT) "The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, 'They have no more wine.' ⁴ 'Dear woman, that's not our problem,' Jesus replied. 'My time has not yet come.' ⁵ But his mother told the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"***

Mary is pretty assertive, and Jesus is matter of fact. Just like Moms today, she seems to ignore Jesus' response and told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you". The first miracle recorded for us seems to be because of Mary. Mary knew that Jesus was more than just her Son, but He was her Son, nonetheless. Jesus starts His itinerant preaching, and Mark records something very interesting for us. **Mark**

3:20-21(NLT) *"One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. ²¹ When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. 'He's out of his mind,' they said."*

Jesus' family thinks He is crazy, and they try to come and get poor "delusional" Jesus. We don't know who of the family came to try and get Jesus at first, but Mark records that later on, Mom shows up with all the brothers of Jesus in tow. **Mark**

3:31-35(NLT) *"Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. ³² There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, 'Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.' ³³ Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?' ³⁴ Then he looked at those around him and said, 'Look, these are my mother and brothers. ³⁵ Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.'"*

Notice, they stay outside. Maybe Jesus' brothers and sisters are thinking He has gone over the deep end. I mean, He thinks He's the Messiah. So, let's get Mom to try and talk some sense into Him. Family can be difficult to love. Mary remembers. She remembers when it was the Sabbath, and they went to the Synagogue. Jesus stood up to read. He reads from Isaiah and when He is done, He claims to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Mary remembers how mad the people got. They were so mad they wanted to push Him off a cliff. She could see the tension building. She could hear the angry insults. "We know His family," the people scoffed. Despite that, she witnessed and heard Jesus healing the sick, and giving mothers back their dead children. She remembered Him feeding the multitudes. She saw the crowds. She heard the words coming out of Jesus' mouth. Then the glorious entry into Jerusalem...suddenly, everything escalating out of control.

Now standing at the foot of the cross, she's wondering "Why?" Little did she know, it was for her. "Why would anyone do this to my Son? He did nothing but heal and bless. Sure, He made some others mad, but to do this to Him..." It felt like someone stuck a knife in her heart. Then she remembers. She remembers when they took Jesus to the Temple. **Luke 2:34-34(NLT)** *"Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, 'This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.'"*

Simeon told her, and he was right. Her heart is broken; her soul is pierced. Then Jesus sees her, and their eyes lock together. Next to Mary is the disciple that Jesus loved (John). Jesus then utters some of the most loving words a child can say to their mother. “Mom, I will make sure that you are taken care of.” No one has to wonder what will happen to Mom. Jesus, up to His final breath, is obedient to the law. Honor your father and your mother. Not at any moment of Jesus’ life or death did He live for Himself. He was destined to die on that cross, and He died willingly. He demonstrates His love by every word He speaks and every action He takes. In His greatest moments of pain, He forgives, He promises eternal life, and He takes care of His natural responsibility (His mother).

Family can be difficult to love. Sometimes they think you are crazy. Sometimes they all show up, including mom, to stop you. But we are called to love, just like Jesus. Can we love like that? Or do we protest and say, “But I am not Jesus?” You are right. But if we say we love Him, we must love others, including those who we deem as difficult to love.

Jesus gives the responsibility of taking care of the woman who took care of Him to someone He trusts. Love can be trusted to do what needs to be done. Can you be trusted? Do you love Jesus enough that He can trust you with His bride? **He trusted John with His mother. He is trusting us with His bride.**

John 13:34(NLT) “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”

The next time you are tempted to mistreat a brother or sister in Christ, remember that they are Jesus’ bride. As the family of God, one day we will all be part of the marriage supper of the Lamb. I guarantee this: we will not run out of wine, but just in case, make sure you sit close to Mary...

Prayer:

- **Pray for the family of God to love one another.**
- **Ask the Lord who you need to reach out to this week. Do it!**
- **Pray for the family members you struggle to get along with.**
- **Ask the Lord to empower you with His love so that you can focus on your responsibilities instead of your rights.**