

A Lesson on Family Relationships

“Woman, behold thy son” and “Behold thy mother”

(John 19:26-27)

The Sayings of Christ on the Cross



On a hot summer day in south Florida a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother, in the house, was looking out the window and saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother.

It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. This began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived.

His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother’s fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved. The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs; and then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, “But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my mom wouldn’t let go.”

Something similar happened when Jesus died on the cross. His nail print scars prove to us that He did not abandon the Father’s plan and come down from the cross. His

scars remind us that He loved us by saving us from the jaws of spiritual death, the bite of the serpent, and our separation from God.

John 19:25-27

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

This particular saying on the cross reveals to us a lesson on family relationships. When all is said and done, and all the dust clears, there are only two things that really matter in life. First, our love and commitment to Jesus Christ matters. Second, our love and commitment to our family matters. Everything else is secondary to these things and when we lose focus of these two important commitments, we stray from the true meaning of life and fulfillment.

We should express love and commitment to Christ and our family.

This is explained in two ways.

1. STAND BY THE CROSS - a lesson of love and commitment to Christ.

John 19:25

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother (Mary), and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

There were at least three Mary's on the hill on this day. In fact, many Bible students think that there are four women named Mary in this verse. The important thing to see is that the Bible says these women “stood by the cross of Jesus.” What love and dedication these women had to their Lord and Savior! They stood by the cross of Jesus! They were standing near the cross and watching the Lord suffer and die a terrible death for them.



These three women remained by the cross. This sends a message of love and commitment to Christ in His hour of agony and suffering. As Christian women, are you willing to stand by the cross and stand up for the cross of Christ today? As godly women you should be willing to stand by and support the message of the cross devotionally, worshipfully, doctrinally, and evangelistically.

In stark contrast with the cruelty and indifference of the soldiers, a group of women watched with love and grief (“his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene”). Ladies, let me ask you: Would you be willing to follow Christ to the cross as these women did? Are you willing to stand by Him and with Him? God is looking for committed women today who believe in the message of the cross and who are ready to share it with others. Are you willing today and next week to be a Gospel witness to others of what Christ has done for you on the cross?

- When was the last time you stood up for the cross of Christ?
- When was the last time you witnessed to someone about the Savior who has died in your place?
- When was the last time you handed out a Gospel tract?

Men, how about you? John was also at the cross.

John 19:26

“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!”

The disciple who Jesus loved was John. He had a special relationship with the Lord Jesus. As men, are you willing to stay committed to the true message of the cross in a world of pluralism, socialism, evolutionism, humanism and legalism? Are you willing to boldly share the message of the cross with the unsaved?

1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

Men, are we willing and ready to stand up for the cross of Christ today and wave the banner of the cross before a lost and dying world? God expects us as men to

also stand up for the message of the cross and be always ready to share it with others.

“Though the foe may rage and gather as the flood,
Let the Standard be displayed;
And beneath its folds, as soldiers of the Lord,
For the truth be not dismayed!

Marching on, marching on,
For Christ count ev'rything but loss!
And to crown Him King, toil and sing
'Neath the banner of the cross!”

We should never be ashamed of the cross of Christ! We should glory in the cross! We have the message that can change the lives of people forever. Beloved, the night is far spent, the days are evil, and Jesus is coming again! Let's stand up for the cross! This is a message of commitment to the One who loved us and died for us!

A few years ago, a man was walking his dog in the church parking lot. I stopped and chatted with him. I discovered that he was a neighbor that lived adjacent to the church. I asked if he knew what it means to be saved through faith in Christ. He told me that he was saved one cool and rainy night. He said he was watching a religious church service on TV and knew he was a sinner in need of the Savior. He went outside and his eyes were suddenly drawn to the cross on our church steeple which could be seen from his house. He said he found himself kneeling in the muddy grass and calling on Christ to save him while looking at the cross. He said he will never forget the experience of his salvation. Unless we come to the foot of the cross we cannot be saved!

The first point in our study is very important. Have we been pointing people to the cross? Are we remaining true to the message of the cross and are we sharing this saving message with others who are going to Hell? The cross should be the centerpiece of our hearts, songs, and speech for it's through the cross that we have escaped Hell's eternal judgment and share in the victory that Christ won for us on the cross. We need to get out of our box and ecclesiastical castle and declare the message of the cross to those who are without Christ and which have no hope.

As God's people we should stay Christ's centered and cross focused in our everyday living.

Galatians 2:20 reminds us about our daily focus:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Through our identification with Christ’s cross (“I have been crucified with Christ”) we have died to the power of sin and through our identification with Christ’s resurrection (“but Christ liveth in me”) we have His power to live victoriously. The love of Jesus Christ for us through His sacrificial death on our behalf is to be a constant focus in our hearts and lives – “who loved me, and gave himself for me.” The cross is to be the motivating factor for our Christian living, a rallying point for reaching out to others who are lost, and a precious reminder of the greatest love story ever told!

As believers, we must remain close to the meaning and message of cross through our daily meditation and worship. We should never lose the wonder of it all! He loved us and gave Himself for us! Paul could never get over the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for himself. The cross that was very dear and real to his heart. He could never lose sight of what Christ did for Him upon the cross.

As I reflect upon how these women and men were standing near the cross, taking in the awful atrocity and witnessing the greatest love story ever told, I remember the words of another precious hymn that was written by Fanny Crosby.

“Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calvary’s mountain.

In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.”

This remarkable and very important passage of Scripture not only teaches us to stand by the cross but to stand with our families up to the end of our lives.

II. STAND BY THE FAMILY - a lesson of love and commitment to family.

Stand By



The Family

John 19:26-27 is a very touching scene! It says, “When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple (John) standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! (referencing John). Then saith he to the disciple (John), Behold thy mother! (referencing Mary) And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

While on the cross, Jesus was taking care of family business. Jesus was making a family! He believed in the family unit (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5). From the very beginning in Genesis God wanted strong families to be built and maintained. Here, Jesus was placing Mary under the protective care of John – His disciple. His beloved disciple is being called to take Mary into his family, and he does this obediently. “And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home” (John 19:27).

Jesus possessed great love for both Mary and John. The Scripture says that John was one, “whom he loved.” Jesus’ love for Mary and John was not an artificial love but a genuine, tender, deep, and undying love for his mother who had given birth to Him and raised Him, but also for John who lived so near and close to Him during His earthly ministry. Even as He was dying, Jesus selflessly cared for those whom He loved (John 13:1, 34; 15:9, 13). John 13:1 says, “having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” The roots of true love run deep. You cannot undo true love by suffering, shame, or separation. This is because true love never faileth (1 Cor. 13:8).

Solomon observed long ago in Song of Solomon 8:7:

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.”

If there was ever a moment when Jesus deserved to be self-focused, this was it. Yet He remained others-centered to the end. Jesus was not having a “pity-party” for Himself when He hung on the cross. He was not a self-centered or a self-pitying type of person who can see nothing but only His own suffering and show no sympathy for others.

Despite His own suffering, the Lord had tender regard for others. This reminds us that life is not all about us! It's about others. We should see them suffering as well and reach out to them in their time of need. This is what Jesus did! He looked past His own suffering and reached out to those who needed His encouragement. We should not live a sheltered and selfish life. Instead, we should be a caring person. Galatians 6:2 reminds us that we should "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

The "behold" statements in these verses emphasize Christ's love and compassion for both Mary and John while He suffered in agony. Woman, behold thy son! (referencing John). Then saith he to the disciple (John), Behold thy mother! These are the second and third "behold" statements that have centered on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Earlier Pilate made a famous statement to the suffering Savior, "Behold the man" (John 19:5). The next "behold" statements are found in our present verses (vv. 26-27). These statements speak of the love and commitment we should have within our personal families and relationships.

Behold is an interjection statement which means "to see" or witness. When we behold something we are to fix our gaze upon something or someone with great intensity and allow it to challenge our minds and hearts. What is said about love and commitment in these verses should grab our attention and grab hold of our soul!

Love and commitment are seen in two ways.



A. Christ remembers His earthly relationships – “behold thy son” and “behold thy mother”

Once again, Jesus is taking care of family business while He hung on the cross. “Woman, behold thy son” (“Mary, as a woman I’m committing you into John’s care”). Christ also says, “Behold thy mother” (“John, My mother now becomes your mother – take good care of

her!”). This is talking about family relationships. Family matters! According to Jesus, strong and loving family relationships are very important.

Think about this. Imagine what it must have been like to see your own son crucified on a cross. Imagine the hurt that Mary was sensing and experiencing. This was her son that she has birthed, raised, and taught to be a man. It was her own son. Can we today comprehend what it must have been like to see her own son nailed to a cross and suffering in great agony before her? It must have been too much to bear. A woman is watching her son die before her very eyes. There can be no greater hurt than this!

I have heard mothers at funerals say something like this: “This is my little Johnny.” Even though Johnny was a full-grown man, every mother still has a child in her heart. Your son will always be your son and to see him dying in agony and despair is enough to break any mother’s heart.

Pink, the commentator, wrote:

“What sorrow it must have caused her when, because there was no room in the inn, she had to lay her newly-born Babe in the manger! What anguish must have been hers when she learned of Herod’s purpose to destroy her infant’s life! What trouble was given her when she was forced on his account to flee into a foreign country and sojourn for several years in the land of Egypt! What piercings of soul must have been hers when she saw her Son despised and rejected of men! What grief must have wrung her heart as she beheld him hated and persecuted by his own nation! And who can estimate what she passed through as she stood there at the cross? If Christ was the Man of Sorrows, was she not the woman of sorrows?”

The hurt and the suffering of Mary was the time that Simeon had warned would come upon her, when the sword of sorrow and grief would pierce her soul as she watched her Son suffer. Simeon gave this prophecy to Mary long ago.

Luke 2:34-35

“And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall (*those who would not repent and receive salvation and therefore fall spiritually*) and rising again of many in Israel (*those who would receive salvation and rise spiritually*); 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.”

The translators give a running commentary on the phrase “that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” as referring also to Mary’s own heart. Simeon may have also been predicting the grief which would flood Mary’s heart when she would witness the crucifixion of her Son. Mary herself would not receive a literal sword but the sword of sorrow and inner grief would pierce through her heart at the crucifixion scene.

Of the three different lists of women around the cross (Matt. 27:55–56; Mark 15:40–41), John’s list is the only one that mentions the presence of Jesus’ mother. And the hurt of a mother is clearly seen in this verse. Her hurt was deep, and her heart was crushed as she watched her son die before her very eyes! An anonymous poet of the Middle Ages has expressed the sorrows of Mary in these words:

“Near the cross her vigil keeping,
Stood the Mother, worn with weeping,
Where He hung, the dying Lord:
Through her soul, in anguish groaning,
Bowed in sorrow, sighing, moaning,
Passed the sharp and piercing sword.
O the weight of her affliction!
Hers, who won God’s benediction,
Hers, who bore God’s Holy One:
O that speechless, ceaseless yearning!
O Those dim eyes never turning
From her wondrous, suffering Son!”

During Mary’s hour of suffering, as she watched her very own Son hang on a cross, Jesus was concerned about the FAMILY and in particular His MOTHER. Therefore, He assigned Mary to John’s care. These “behold” statements (Behold thy son and mother) mean that John was in some sense becoming Mary’s son and Mary was becoming John’s mother. And once again the Bible says: “And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home” (John 19:27). Jesus entrusted his mother into John’s care, and he became as a son to her in the place of Jesus. Now that is love!

Here is an important observation in view of the false teachings of Roman Catholicism which glorify Mary. Jesus placed Mary under John's authority - not John under Mary's authority. This is a position that the Roman Catholic Church has found very uncomfortable in view of its FALSE doctrine or teaching of Mary's supremacy and exaltation.

In any event, the whole scene was certainly displaying the care and help of a loving son for his mother. On the cross Jesus suffered when he saw his own mother suffering! He loved his mother greatly and made sure in his dying moments to make provision for her after his death. The real meaning of this episode is that Jesus was caring for his mother and thus fulfilling the Old Testament commandment to "honor thy father and mother" (Exod. 20:12).

Even in His dying hour, Jesus wanted to honor His mother by making sure she was taken care of as He entrusts her in John's care! This says something about a man! If you want to find a real man – don't look to the NFL players. You look for a man who cares for his mother. We are under a God-given obligation to honor our parents, and this obligation does not cease despite our own predicaments that we are facing in life. Even as we grow older and are no longer under the home authority or our parents, we need to still honor our parents by caring for them, by showing a level of respect for them, and seeking to speak well of them.

- Giving honor to our parents when we are young comes through being obedient.
- Giving honor to our parent when we are mature (adults) comes through learning and living out what they taught us.
- Giving honor to our parent when they are aged comes through giving care and provision.

Taking care of His mother may seem like a very mundane thing for Jesus to be concerned about in the hour of His greatest sacrifice for the world of lost sinners, but the beauty of the Savior's love and compassion for His mother during His own excruciating pain reflects a genuine love within the family unit.

Pastor Ray Pritchard shares this personal story:

"In the small town in Alabama where I grew up my father was a well-known and greatly loved physician. There were four of us Pritchard boys who grew up in that

small town. Outside of our circle of friends, we were known as “Dr. Pritchard’s sons.” In those days, that meant a certain responsibility was laid on our shoulders. We had to live up to the good name our father had established. And we knew—boy, did we know!—that if we ever got into trouble our misbehavior would reflect badly on our father.

“My father has been dead for 18 years. But when I go back to visit that small town, someone always recognizes me as “Dr. Pritchard’s son.” Such is the power of a good name; such is the enduring relationship that lasts long after a father has died. And to be truthful, the sweetest, most wonderful compliment anyone can ever pay to me is to say, “You father would be proud of you.” The thought of that brings tears to my eyes even as I write these words.

“I am still my father’s son though he is dead and gone. I will always be my father’s son. That relationship will never change and the burden to honor his name will never be lifted from my shoulders. It is a heavy burden, but a sweet one, and I would never want to be freed from that sacred obligation. In a similar way, to Jesus, Mary was always going to be His mother. Death would not change this!”

This being the case, Jesus wanted to honor her before He dies. Of course, many who have become Christians did not have parents who lived honorable lives. On one level, the Fifth Commandment to honor our parents appears to apply only to families that resemble “Leave It To Beaver” or “Ozzie and Harriet.” It doesn’t seem to fit the dysfunctional families of today and the broken homes. However, the commandment stands and has not been repealed or revoked just because a family was dysfunctional.

This commandment to honor your parents does not say:

- Honor your parents if they were honorable.
- Honor your parents if they deserved it.
- Honor your parents if they treated you right.

The Fifth Commandment says, “Honor thy father and mother.” Period. It’s true that the way your parents performed will certainly affect your relationship with them and it will certainly affect the extent in which you will follow this commandment and the motivation you bring to the task. But it does not affect the central reality

that you must obey it whether they were good parents or not! Your parents' failure to be all they should have been does not excuse you from obeying the Fifth Commandment.

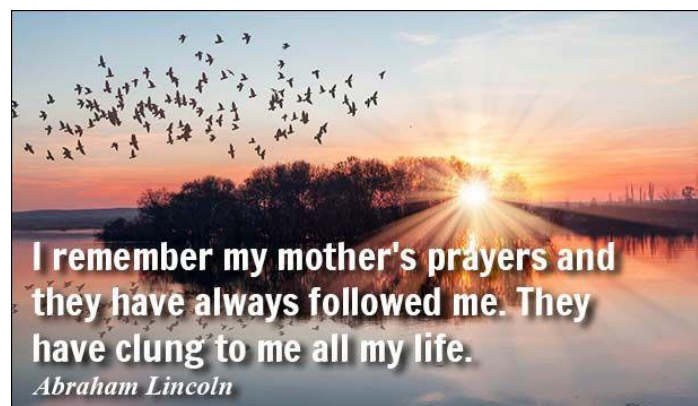
I thank God for a loving and caring family. But not everyone has had the same childhood experience. However, we must remember that our placement in life by God within a specific family unit is the result of His plan and purpose (Rom. 8:28). For the reason, we can make the choice to respect the parents God chose to give us, whether they were good, bad, or indifferent.

If we want to be like Jesus, we should care for our mother. Even as Jesus was dying an excruciatingly painful death, He compassionately made provision for his mother. Each one of us are responsible for the wellbeing of our mother and parents. God has called us to honor them by taking care of them in older age. Many of them have raised us, changed our diapers, and taught us. God has called us to undying love and commitment to our parents – not abandonment and neglect.

In honoring our parents, we might need to forgive them for their past failures. This might be one way you can honor them today. But in honoring them we can also speak well of them, respect them, seek their wisdom, support them, and provide for them.

- ✓ Do you really believe that God in His all-wise purpose and plan has assigned a specific father and mother to you?
- ✓ In what ways is God calling you to show honor and respect to your parents?
- ✓ How can you honor your parents in the weeks to come?

We should honor our parent and mothers in particular for the spiritual blessings and lessons that have left with us.



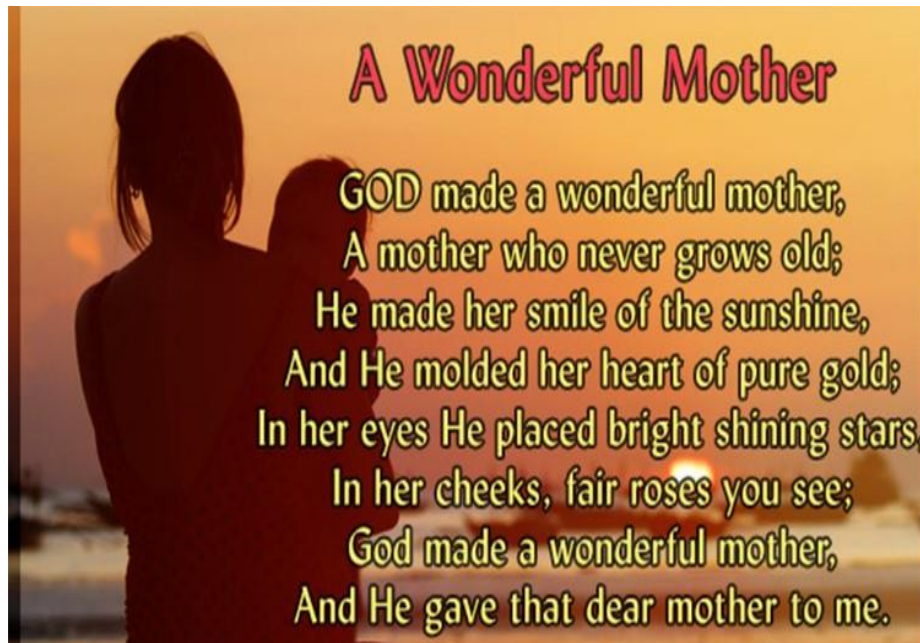
There was a little man compelled to live with his son and his son's wife and their family. He would blink a lot. He trembled involuntarily. And while eating at the table as often as not, he would, to put food to his mouth, he would miss his mouth and food would go back on the table. And after every meal when his daughter-in-law would remove the plate, there would be just food and all around on the tablecloth as if a child had eaten.

Finally, one day he was eating there, and he spilled an unusual amount of food, and the daughter-in-law said, "I can't stand this any longer. To just eat every day like this in filth." And she got up along with the little old man's son, and gently but firmly they directed him over to a table on the side. And they seated him there and put a bib on him and gave him an earthenware bowl to eat out of, and said, "You eat over here."

Weeks went by and he was eating at the side table, blinking and trembling and spilling his food. And then one day while eating, he knocked over the earthenware bowl and it went on the floor, and food just exploded and went everywhere. And with this, the son and daughter-in-law said, "We can't stand to eat like pigs. We don't eat like pigs in this house." And the daughter-in-law said, "I have some right to happiness."

And so they went and made a trough for him, a wooden trough. And they gave him a trough to eat out of and said, "You're going to eat like a pig, you need to be served like a pig." A couple of weeks went by, and this couple was out in the backyard looking at their son Billy, whom they loved so much. And Billy had a board and was working around, and the mother said, "Billy, what are you doing?" And he said, "I'm building a trough so when I grow up and get big, I'm gonna have it to serve you and daddy out of."

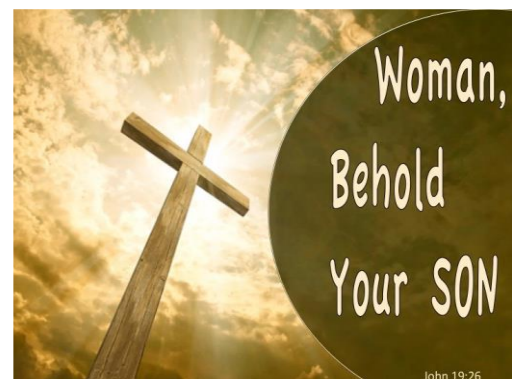
The couple looked at one another, cried, embraced, realized the error of their ways of not honoring a parent, and at suppertime that night they brought to the table and treated him in a respectful and loving way. Listen, Jesus honored his mother while he was on the cross by making sure she was taken care of by John. This should be our heart and desire in life. Pat O'Reilly was reminiscing on mothers and wrote a poem.



B. Christ presenting His redemptive relationship – Woman.”

Christ not only remembers his earthly relationship He has with Mary on the cross, but He also presents to Mary His redemptive relationship that He has with her. Jesus addressed his mother by saying, “Dear woman.” This was actually an affectionate and respectful way of speaking to her. It was not rude or calloused of Jesus to address Mary as “woman” instead of His mother at this point. He was not being disrespectful to her but was making a very important point regarding His relationship with her.

Jesus was teaching an important lesson not only about caring for His mother but a lesson that reveals that all mothers of all races and background need to be saved and prepared for eternity. At this point in time Mary needed to remember her redemptive relationship that she had with Christ and not merely her paternal relationship. You see, Mary was not only Christ’s mother; she was also a woman that needed to



be saved by the redemptive price that Jesus was going to pay for the salvation of her own soul. She needed to remember this at the cross of Christ! This is why we see the noticeable change between the expression “mother” to “woman.”

Jesus did not directly call Mary his “Mother” at this point of time. Jesus calls her “woman” to convey a specific purpose for His death on Calvary’s cross. At this point, Mary must no longer think of herself as being Jesus’ MOTHER. Mary, as a WOMAN must begin to look upon Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She must begin to concentrate on the redemptive role and meaning of His sacrifice. For this reason, Jesus called her woman instead of mother. It reminds us that every woman, even the woman who gave birth to Jesus Christ, needs a Savior.

Dr. Lehman Strauss said:

“Here Jesus is seen actually breaking the human relationship. At Calvary all human, natural ties were severed. From this point on, Christ will no longer be Mary’s son but her Saviour.”

When it came to Jesus accomplishing the Father’s work during His earthly ministry he said to Mary “woman ... mine hour is not yet come” (John 2:4). Also, when He was the sinner’s sacrifice on the cross he said to Mary “woman behold thy son” (John 19:26). Jesus addressed Mary as woman and not mother in these two instances. We must remember that this specific choice of words on the cross indicates that Jesus not only had an earthly relationship with Mary as His mother but also a redemptive relationship with her for He was also dying as her Savior.

This is why Jesus chose the word “woman” on the cross while addressing Mary. Mary was not only Christ’s mother, but she was also a woman that He was dying for to rescue her from sin’s penalty. Mary was Jesus’ MOTHER during His earthly ministry but at the cross she was addressed as a WOMAN (like every other woman) who needed a Savior! Let me set the record straight on Mariolatry. Mary confessed that she was a woman and sinner like anyone else and needed a Savior like everyone else.

Luke 1:46-47

“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”

The Catholic Church teaches as dogma that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." In other words, Romanism teaches that Mary ascended to Heaven after living a perfect and

sinless life and that she now is interceding for the Catholic Church in Heaven as the Queen of Heaven.

The Biblical case against this doctrine is that it is not to be found in Holy Scripture. It is not part of “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A Roman Catholic apologist, Karl Keating, said:

“Still, fundamentalists ask, where is the proof from Scripture? Strictly, there is none . . . The mere fact that the Church teaches the doctrine of the Assumption as something definitely true is a guarantee that it is true”

In other words, even though it’s not found in the Bible, it’s true, simply because the Catholic Church says it’s true. This once again shows how many people possess a blind faith in Roman Catholic teaching even though the teaching has absolutely no support from God’s revelation – the Bible. Roman rationalism takes precedence over the Bible.

Roman Catholic teaching is nothing more than an extension of the ancient, pagan, Babylonian teaching who calls Mary the alleged queen of Heaven who intercedes for us in Heaven as a Mediatrix helping to dispense the graces of her Son to us (Jer. 7:18; 44:18). This is apostasy! Folks, there is no queen in Heaven, there is only a King, and His name is Jesus! Isaiah declared: “Mine eyes have seen the King!” – not the queen!

We must remember that the WOMAN Mary cannot intercede for you in any way, only Jesus can. Jesus is the only Savior and Mediator. Roman Catholic teaching blasphemes Christ in the very hour of His death. This is because Catholic books are full of the notion that Mary was being exalted here at the cross when Jesus talks to her. We are told that with her passion Mary comes to the aid of her son on the cross. Alone, Christ could not have accomplished the task; He could never have borne the sins of the world and made atonement for them by himself. He needed Mary’s help and encouragement.

We are told by Roman Catholicism that the "The Mother of God" (a title never given to her) had to cooperate with the Son of God and His work on the cross. This basically summarizes the Catholic teaching and none of it is true! There was only one Mediator at the cross and in Heaven today!

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Christ bridges the gap and giant chasm between man and God. No mother, not even Mary, can bridge the gap between lost sinners and God. This whole scene on the cross which involves Christ addressing Mary as a woman certainly has a lesson for those who are tempted to exalt Mary to the place where she is adored and worshipped.

John Phillips reveals this story:

“Some years ago I was in Vichy, France, and went to the church of Mary the Healer. In the dome of the church can be seen a mural of Mary and Jesus, with Mary predominating. Around the base of the dome are two messages, one exalting Jesus, the other exalting Mary. The one message is a quotation from John 3:16, ‘For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son.’ The other quotation is from St. Bernard: “It is God’s will that we should receive all things through Mary.” The first quotation from the Bible is true; the second is blatantly false.”

So once again, although Mary was His earthly MOTHER, Christ calls her “WOMAN” to remind her that Christ was also her Redeemer and Lord and that she too possessed the need for a redemptive relationship with Him. Christ’s relationship to her as His mother is about to be severed and Jesus wants Mary to focus on Him at this particular time in His redemptive role as the Lord and Savior of glory.

Well, we need to finish this saying on the cross. We have discovered in this scene and saying on the cross that we must stand by the cross as these faithful women and John did and also stand by our families today as Jesus took care of His mother while He was dying on the cross! God is very concerned about family relationships. “Woman, behold thy son” and “John, “Behold thy mother.” In these words, there is deep love and concern for the family unit. But we have also discovered that we must reflect on the wonder that Christ died as our Redeemer, to rescue us (both men and women) from sin’s penalty and make us sons of God. Jesus shares this love with Mary the woman who needs to also benefit from His redemptive price for sin.

There is an all-out attack on the family institution today. Nothing could ever replace a genuine mother within the family who loves her children. Mothers are the cornerstone of any civilization that wants to survive and reflect God's creative pattern for the family unit. Today they are telling us that we don't need to have real mothers. The woke and wacked out Leftist groups within America are trying to sell to the American people that men can now have babies and be a mother. In other words, transgenderism teaches that a woman can become a man and now men can have babies.

Sadly, rejecting God's blueprint for the nuclear family results in confusion and utter foolishness. This is where some within America are today. Thank God that as Christians we do not have to imbibe the rhetoric of left-wing lunatics. We can honor our mothers and rejoice in Biblical womanhood and motherhood today.

