

May 14th 2006: Mother's Day: Jesus' words to Mary from the cross: John 19:25-27

Isn't it wonderful to be in church on Mother's Day

To be in a place where we can turn...from thanking our Mother's
To thanking God for Mothers.....and also bringing them before Him....blessing...help

As well as being Mother's Day.....Grandmothers.....Great.....Never stops being
Of course the grandma's here.....prob say.....very diff being a mum in their day
Found this little rhyme that looks back to Grandma's time

Mother'...Grandmothers.....How very much we have to thank them for::

They do such a wonderful work

One minister's wife.....

A little boy forgot his lines.....

• Of course Mothers Day does not hold the same joy

There will be sadness for some today.....

Even perhaps some bitterness.....

And also within Mother's themselves...there is.. alongside the joy of being appreciated
An awareness of the pressure of being a mother.....grandmother
that is easier to handle some days.....But never goes away completely

Pressure that includes the responsibilities of motherhood

Of guiding one's child.....without completely controlling their spirit
Of wanting to give them the best....but sometimes not feeling you are able....
or even know what the best is

It's seeking to help them develop a good self image....when at times u don't feel

Of wanting...them to do the right things...
when there seems so much pressure...do the wrong

Of letting them make their own mistakes.....and agonizing....when they do
Of allowing them to be what they choose to be....
yet praying that they and you...may choose ...in Christ....much more

It includes those moments when life has a habit of ganging up
Times when you get so tired.....The burden of coping ...of being so much to so many
And for some it's a burden they carryalone

Its often a tiredness that lives inside.....**Bursts** out in a crankiness....quickly regret
....and that leads to feelings of shame....failure

Of course such burdens and needs are not unique.....to Mothers and Grandmothers

Women who have never mothered in a natural sense
Still face similar resps in other areas.....Similar burdens...frustrations...difficulties

Deborah.....called a mother in Israel.....role she played for a Nation
And many a woman....called to play a mother type role within the church...amongst
And the stresses and demands.....may be different....but still as tough

- **It is for that reason**.....had Julie read.....the story from the cross...**containing...**
...words of Jesus to His mother

For in those words there is...a message for all mothers
Indeed for all of us

A MESSAGE OF CARING ...OF COMPASSION....OF LOVE
A word of hope.....that tells us how important we are...to the Son of God

- **Mary at this time.....about 48 years old**
We believe that her husband had died.....several years before
That Mary had known the struggle....of being a sole parent

And that no doubt.....,been only one of the many struggles life....sent her way
But what she lived thro....foot of the cross.....Her worst time ever

Here was her special child.....Jesus

Miraculously conceived by her.....About whom so much had been promised
Thro whom so much achieved

Now crucified just metres from where she stood

Surely she would not have understood his actions

She would have wished....he had fled while he had the chance

And now he was dying before her.....and there was nothing she could do

Then Jesus.....during the time of his greatest agony and pain

when every word was a near impossibility.....and every breath a pain wracked moment
--→looked down at his mother and at

And Jesus said...v26—27.....

And I believe we see here.....Jesus saying.... to His mother

Even while I am going through my darkest time.....I will not forget you

Will not stop caring for your deepest needs.....

I will enable you to survive this great grief

• **And isn't this a picture of how Jesus still cares for us.....**

He will never leave us or forsake us.....We are never out of His thoughts...love..

Whatever great pain you are experiencing.....whatever need big or small

Jesus is with you.....And He knows what help you need....

He knows what will enable you to move on through this darkness

• **And if today you have a mother**.....father.....sister or a brother....

A child or a friend.....with pain....distress....fear....confusion in their lives

Or who just seems so lost.....or whose name rests heavily upon your heart

Then bring them today to Jesus in prayer....because He showed on the cross
He never lacks time for those who draw near to Him

- **And its also important to note.....**there from the cross.....
Jesus said “Dear Woman”

For Mary's work as His mother was now completed.....
Now through His sacrifice.....He would become her Saviour
And as such she had a new ministry to perform.....A new message to proclaim
And to do that she needed to move on from her grief.....into her service

And for that she needed the beloved.....Even asto do the same....needed Mary

There on the cross Jesus.....was using His followers...
to meet the needs of one another
In His name.....at His command

And He still seeks to do the same in the body of believers....gathered here
To use you and me to care for one another.....
To be His hands and His feet.....To love and support

To pray for....and at times to also be used....as an answer to prayer

Is there some needythat Jesus has been speaking to you about

You may not know the fullness of their needs yet.....but Jesus is saying to you
Take care of this one for me.....and to them He is saying

In the love of this one.....you will find Me.

