

Mother's Day 2026  
Mark's Mom, Mary  
Acts 12

### **Happy Mother's Day!**

As we often do, we're going to break from our series and look to, and hopefully learn from, a very special mother.

**It was about 10 years** after Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension.

**Life wasn't easy.** For everyone, but especially those who knew Jesus and were faithfully living for Him.

- **James the brother of John was dead.**
- **It looked like Peter was to be next.**

**The future was uncertain.**

They believed. They tried to live accordingly. They knew their Savior.

But –

Rome... Herod... the Satanic opposition... the murderous hate... no doubt cast a heavy shadow

**In this moment, in the middle of an amazing story, is a mom and her boy.** Dr Luke told us her name was Mary, and her son, little John. Also called Mark.  
**So, today, we learn with and from, Mark's Mom, Mary.**

### **I. Mary.**

**Mary is one of those remarkable women** in the New Testament who are **mentioned only once.**

**This was her house.**

- **Mary was probably a widow. A single mom in difficult times.**
- **It would appear that Mary was fairly well off.**
  - Barnabas, her nephew, had in Acts 4...
  - Blessed financially... house was secure and large enough...

Out text reveals that **she and her home were central to life of the believers at that time in Jerusalem.**

**Finally, Mary had a son. John, whose surname was Mark.** Probably a young teenager, if that, at this point.

## **II. The Mess (Crisis).** Vs. 1-4

\* **Just briefly tell the story.**

Herod has Peter arrested with the intent to kill him.

Peter is in maximum security. Chained to two guards. Behind locked doors guarded by 4 squads of 4 professional soldiers. In the middle of the jail. And then there is the prison beyond that.

**The next day-** Peter was to be tried and killed. **From every human angle, it was over.**

### **What now?**

- *Do you think God was stressed?*
- *Did the crisis warrant abandoning their witness, changing their priorities and hunkering down until things got better? After all, it was bad and could quickly get worse!*

### **Do you realize how many "What now?" situations we face?**

- **Even now, we may be there collectively?** If not, we will be.
- You may be there **personally**, and the darkness and unknowns are just hammering you. ***What now?***

## **III. The Miracle.**

What a story! (Tell it! Have fun!

**A. Peter had a difficult time believing it. But, he did what he was told.**

**B. What was the church doing?**

**All they could!**

- They were **gathered together**
- God was working.

They were **praying...**  
And **preparing for another funeral.**  
They were praying, but not expecting!

**God answered – and they argued with the answer!!**

**Ever done that?** Ask God for something. Pour your heart out.  
And yet don't really believe God will answer?

### **C. Then... The knocking at the door...**

Rhoda was so thrilled she forgot to open the door!

*"Peter's ghost!"*

*"Thou art mad!"*

Sometimes we're praying, and God is knocking. The question –  
**Are we listening, or just talking?!**

**Be aware of the knocking at the door.** Literally, or through  
other means. God trying to get us to respond!

Listen –

- **Verses** He might bring to remembrance.
- **Thoughts** God puts in our heart. Actions. Choices.  
Directions...
- **Maybe just the peace** He brings in the midst of the  
storm until He brings us through...
- **Maybe the power and perspective to do what He asks**

### **Astonishment! Vs. 16**

**It doesn't always end this way.** After all, James had been killed. Others would die.  
Sometimes God's plans are not ours and God's answer to our prayer is not what  
we want, but His will.

*But this time... this story... was left for a reason! What can we learn?*

## IV. Messages

### 1. The mission: vs. 24. **“But the word of God grew and multiplied.”**

Those that were part of that story would soon finish their race and drift from the pages of history. But the story- His story – would continue. And **their part would never be forgotten**. Would ripple **beyond their wildest imaginations and change a world**. Would **ripple into eternity** and the consequences of lives lived for Jesus

### 2. The reminder:

- **Priorities – Faith in Jesus is ultimately all that will matter!**
- **Prayer – He is always as close as the mention of His name!**
  - **“Ye have not because you ask not”?**

### 3. The Mom: Mary

- **The legacy of Mary was not a one-time heroic mark on history; It was the daily significance of faith in her Savior and the genuine walk with God that resulted.**

**When Peter walked out**, he thought for a minute, where do I go? And the light went off- ding ding ding – Mary. **That’s where they’ll be**. How did he know? **He knew her.**

While they had **no idea what the next moment** would bring, **Mary served. Mary prayed. With everything she was and had...**

- **Mary was momma through it all.**  
So, **what will happen to our kids if first we put our faith in Jesus?**

**Nestled in the shadows was a miracle that would ripple far beyond the events of that night.**

**Mary didn’t just raise a son - she raised him in the presence of God at work.**

**Mary didn't shelter, or protect, or dismiss her little one – He was right in the middle of it.**

*Little John heard it all.* Saw it all. We know him as Mark.

**It was a night he would never forget. A night that would propel him to places they literally didn't have the capacity to imagine.**

- **Soon, Barnabas and a new Apostle named Saul** would head into the heart of the empire with the gospel of Jesus. Guess who would tag along on the first missionary journey? **Yep- John Mark!**
- **He was still young. Maybe he wasn't ready...** We don't know. We do know he deserted the team and went home. **Failure wasn't the end of his story. It was part of the journey of faith.**
- Barnabas and Paul split up, and Barnabas took John Mark under his wing. **They went to Cyprus.** Mark grew.
- He would later be led by the Spirit of God to write the second gospel – **The Gospel of Mark!** Every time you see it... you read it... Be reminded of our awesome Savior!

**And remember, there was a faithful mom God used to set the stage for it all. Mark's Mom, Mary.**

2000 years later.... *What do we do when life crashes in and shakes us? When the seemingly impossible looms before us?*

- **What do you do for your life?** Pleasure? Plans? Dreams?
- **What do you do for your family?**  
Give them the world and all they'll have is... well, some form of the mess that the world is... **His dreams and plans for them are greater than ours; Give them to Him!**
- **What do you do to protect your kids and prepare them? Give them Jesus!**

This Mother's Day –

We can know the risen Savior, just like them.

We are led to live by faith in Jesus, letting go of everything and giving all to Him.

We are again reminded that **the best thing we can give is Jesus!**