

God's Love Displayed through the Love of a Mother

Luke 1:26-56

Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." He replied to the one who was speaking to him, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" Stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:47-50

Mary's pregnancy shows that God fulfills promises and loves women.

- At this time the Israelites were still under the Mosaic covenant. By the law alone, a woman was considered unclean after she gave birth.

"Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over." Leviticus 12:4

- Where the woman Eve had brought on the curse, the woman Mary would be used to birth Jesus who crushed the serpent and made way for redemption for his people.
Genesis 3:15

Mary is the new Eve, and in her trust, offers a new way of being.

Eve says, let me have it.

Mary says, let it be.

Eve came from Adam,

But the new Adam, came from the new Eve. - Rich Villodas, pastor in Queens, NYC

- Every time we acknowledge that Jesus was fully divine and fully human we acknowledge that he chose to pass through the waters of a woman's womb to come to earth. vs 31-32

“When Mary was filled with the Spirit and conceived the Son of God, her body became the inner court of the Holy of Holies. Never before had a woman entered this sacred space, but in the incarnation, the Holy of Holies came into her space.” - Cheryl Johns, theology professor

Mary was faithfully present as the Lord’s servant *and* his mother throughout her days.

- **She willingly submitted to the Lord.** Luke 1:26-38

“I am the Lord’s servant” vs 38

This is love for God, to obey his commands and his commands are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3

- **She instructed people to listen to Jesus at the beginning of his ministry.** John 2:1-5

“Do whatever he tells you.” vs 5

On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’s mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. When the wine ran out, Jesus’s mother told him, “They don’t have any wine.” “What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.” “Do whatever he tells you,” his mother told the servants. John 2:1-5

- **She was present at the crucifixion.** John 19:25

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. John 19:25

- **She was present at pentecost.** Acts 1:12-14

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. Acts 1:12-14

“And a sword will pierce your own soul.” Luke 2:35

Mary ministered through mothering and proclamation.

Mary’s ministry of mothering:

- She taught Jesus.

Praying like Monks, Living Like Fools by Tyler Staton

- She continually pondered all the goodness in her heart – shepherds, wise men, the temple visits. Luke 2:16

Mary’s ministry of proclamation:

- She told the servants to obey everything Jesus told them to do. John 2:2-5
- She broke into song when Elizabeth told her she was blessed because of her belief. Gen 15:6
- She proclaimed Scripture through worship and prayer. Luke 1:46-53

Jesus ministered to Mary – what kind of a relationship did they have?

- She was constantly present throughout his ministry which shows he wanted her around.
- We never see Jesus rebuke his mom.
- He took care of her when he was on the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. John 19:26-27

In what areas of your life do you need to say to God, “Let it be done to me according to your will”?

What are your areas of ministry?

When you hear the voice of God in your life what do you assume about his tone? Harsh, annoyed, indignant? Or gentle, patient, and loving?

How does understanding God’s love for you enable you to love yourself and others? The reverse is also true...

Set a daily reminder in your phone for December that simply says, “I am loved by God; I believe, help my unbelief.”