

Concerns about this message on Mother's Day

When we look up into the night sky, we are reminded that our God is not small. He holds the stars in place, stretches out the heavens, commands the sun to rise, and keeps the universe suspended by His power. Nothing drifts beyond His reach. Nothing exists by accident.

Creation itself declares that God is intentional, wise, and wonderfully personal.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Psalm 19:1 NKJV

And that same God who **holds galaxies in place** also designed the **beauty of the family**

He intentionally created mothers, **not as an afterthought**, but as a gift of **nurture, strength, tenderness, wisdom, sacrifice, and love**

The Lord is not only mighty over creation, but He is tender toward His children

However, "**Honor your father and your mother**" is one of the **clearest commands in Scripture**

Not merely about childhood obedience; it is about a lifelong posture of **respect, gratitude, care**

You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, Remember the Sabbath day

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NKJV

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house

When we say, "We are honoring you," **we mean**: I see your **worth**, I recognize your **role**, I appreciate your **sacrifice**. I will treat you with **respect**, I will give you the **dignity and gratitude** you deserve

Biblically, honor is more than just saying nice words. It is an attitude of the heart that shows up in our actions

God calls **His people to honor them**

This command does not mean pretending every Mom has done everything right

But it does mean **we refuse bitterness** as our master, meaning, we as **believers choose grace, truth, forgiveness, respect**, and, where possible, loving care

Ladies in the Bible: Rehab, Deborah, Ruth, Abigail, Miriam, Mary Magdalene, Sarah, Hannah , **Mary, the mother of Jesus**, Elizabeth, Eve, Rebecca, Rachel, Hagar, Leah, Anna, the prophets, Lydia of Thyatira, Priscilla, Martha, Samaritan woman

Mary, the mother of Jesus - Background

When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son! John 19:26 NKJV

Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother! And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. John 19:27 NKJV

At the cross, Jesus not only paid for our sins; He also showed us how **love takes responsibility** for others

Last Words Matter

A person's last words are usually important. When someone knows their time is short, they do not waste words. They say what matters

Jesus' words from the cross matter, Father, forgive them, today you will be with Me in Paradise, Woman, behold your son, Behold your mother, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? I thirst, It is finished, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit

These are not random words. These are windows into the heart of Jesus

And one of those windows shows us this: **Jesus cares about the people left standing in the shadow of suffering**

Jesus is hanging between heaven and earth. His body is **torn**. His hands and feet are **pierced**. The **weight of sin** is being placed upon Him. He is fulfilling **prophecy**. He is bearing **wrath** and He is **purchasing redemption** for us sinners

However, in that moment, Jesus looks down and sees His mother, **think about that**

The Savior of the world is dying for sinners, and He still sees His Mother

That is not a small detail. That is the heart of Christ

At the cross, there was noise, mockery, soldiers, religious leaders, pain, darkness, and death

Yet Jesus' eyes found His mother

Mary had been there from the beginning

She heard the angel's announcement - **And having come in, the angel said to her, Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women! Luke 1:28 NKJV**

She carried Him in her womb. She gave birth to Him in Bethlehem. She fled with Joseph into Egypt to protect Him from Herod. She watched Him grow. She heard Him teach. She saw the crowds gather. She saw Him loved, rejected, followed, misunderstood, worshiped, and hated

Now she sees Him crucified

This is the pain Simeon had warned her about years earlier - **Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed Luke 2:35 NKJV**

That prophecy is now being fulfilled before her eyes

Mary is not merely watching a public execution. **She is watching her baby, her Son, suffer**

Every mother understands something of this

A mother can often endure her own pain more easily than she can endure the pain of her child

Mary stands near the cross, and **Jesus sees her**

There is comfort here; Jesus sees the **grieving mother**, Jesus sees the **tired mother**, Jesus sees the **faithful mother**, Jesus sees the **mother who prays quietly** for her baby

Generally speaking, Jesus sees all who stand near the cross brokenhearted

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart... Psalm 34:18a NKJV

At the cross, Mary was hurting, but she was not unseen, and that matters

And many Mothers **carry quiet questions**: Did I do enough? Did I pray enough? Did I make too many mistakes? Do my children know how much I love them?

Jesus Honored His Mother – “He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son”

At first, the word woman **may sound cold to modern ears**. But in that culture, this was not disrespectful. Jesus was not being harsh or dismissive. He was speaking with **dignity and care**

Even while fulfilling the greatest mission in history, **Jesus does not neglect the command to honor His mother—Grace, let that sink in**

Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law of God - **Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NKJV**

That is not sentimental. **That is obedience, and this is honoring his Mother**

Some relationships are deeply complicated. Some wounds are very real. Some situations require boundaries, wisdom, and safety

Jesus' words from the cross show us the beauty of faithful love and sacred responsibility

John received Mary into his own home, and that is a powerful picture of honor in action

Then He said to the disciple, **Behold your mother!** And from that hour, that disciple took her to his own home. **John 19:27 NKJV**

Jesus speaks to Mary, and then He speaks to John. To Mary He says, **Woman, behold your son!** To John He says, **Behold your mother!**

Jesus entrusts Mary to John's care. John is called the disciple whom Jesus loved. While many had fled, John is standing near the cross. Jesus gives him a sacred responsibility

And John responds immediately. **And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home John 19:27 NKJV**

That phrase is beautiful: from that hour. John did not say, **Let me pray about** whether I should obey Jesus. John did not wait until **things were convenient**

Love became action, faith became responsibility

At the cross, Jesus shows us that **love for His Mother and us is not static or passive; it's active**

That is what faith built on Christ looks like

When Jesus is our Cornerstone, obedience is not delayed, love becomes action, and responsibility and stewardship are acts of true worship

As we sing **Cornerstone**, we remember

Christ is our firm foundation, and because He is faithful to care for us, we are called to faithfully care for one another

Jesus entrusted Mary to someone who was spiritually present and practically available

God uses the person who is standing close enough to care