Reflecting on Mary, Jesus' Mother Mary 10, 2020

Introduction: In this message, we consider the relationship between Jesus and Mary through a survey of all their recorded interactions in the Gospels. From observing these interactions, we discover three truths:

- 1. Mary loved and cared for Jesus, though she didn't fully understand his mission. (Luke 2:48-51)
- 2. Mary passed down her helpful nature to Jesus, though she didn't fully grasp his miraculous power. (John 2:1-12)
- 3. Mary continued her motherly care for Jesus even into adulthood, while not fully understanding his identity. (Mark 3:20-34, John 7:2-5)

The **Big Idea** of the message is that *Mary loved and cared for Jesus by influencing him toward the path God had for Him.* This message challenges us to parent in the same way as Mary, by loving and caring for our kids by influencing them toward the path God has for them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the message stuck out to you most important?

2. For those who are parents, what is the biggest adjustment you need to make in order to be a parent more like Mary?

3. Don't go down this rabbit hole too much, but what do you think it must have been like to parent Jesus?

4. In reflecting on the wedding feast at Cana (John 2), it struck me (Pastor) that this whole miracle is initiated by a conversation between Mary and Jesus. I'm not suggesting that Mary gets credit for this miracle, but the influence of Mary is in plain sight. How does a mother influence her child, regardless of his age? How can that influence be used for God's glory?

5. If you had a mother who influenced (or continues to influence) you toward godliness, share a story about her that might encourage others.

6. Acts chapter 2 seems to indicate that Mary became a true follower of Jesus. Discuss how a mother's own relationship with Jesus can influence her kids toward godliness. Explain some ways that parents (particularly those with young children) can have success in pursuing a relationship with God. What tips would you offer to mothers (and fathers) today?