

WHO IS YOUR MOTHER, WHO IS YOUR SON "THE FAMILY OF THE CROSS"

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19:25-27

We live in a time when taking care of family is no longer a high priority.

We have so little contact with one another.

Fewer visits.

Letters or phone calls.

Because we're so busy. (or so we think)

But family is important.

The statistics show that when families sit down with their children for one meal a day, Their children do less drugs, smoke less, drink less, and get involved with less sexual misconduct. In fact they do better in school and life in general.

That's why the message were looking at is family centered.

Now some of you have no family left.

Mom and Dad have died.

Or mom or dad have deserted you.

Or divorce or Alzheimer has separated you.

That is all a part of life.

I watched a documentary on the Bronx in NY City

It showed a huge housing apartment complex.

And every apartment in it had a child or teen that

Was being raised by someone other than a close relative.

There wasn't a mom or dad in the place.

You couldn't find a Grandfather or grandmother.

Children and teens were being raised by good friends, aunt or cousin.

And in the midst of a world of drive by shootings,

Stabbings rape and robbery.

In the midst of their enemies, we ask

Who is your mother, who is your son or daughter?

Parenting has gotten so bad, that

In 1978, Thomas Hansen of Boulder Colorado, sued his parents for \$350,000 on grounds of "malpractice of parenting." Mom and Dad had botched his upbringing so badly, he charged in his suit, that he would need years of costly psychiatric treatment.

Unknown.

1. JESUS CARED FOR HIS FAMILY-- IN THE MIDST OF HIS ENEMIES

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, John 19:25-26

Four people who loved Jesus were there at the cross for Jesus.

Yes His mother was there,
John the beloved was there,
With Mary the wife of Cleopas and Jesus' friend, Mary Magdalene

But I can guarantee you that if you look closer at that scene,
there were a lot more people standing around that cross.
The Roman soldiers were there,
The Jealous Pharisees.
Power hungry Jewish leaders.
The gawkers, ambulance chasers, the hucksters.
The thieves were there and more than just the two on the cross,
The pickpockets were there
And the Roman soldiers were there
Gambling for his clothes just under the cross.

And it caused me to ask myself:

Who is my mother? Who is my brother, my sister?

Just because you are standing near the cross,
Just because you may be standing under the cross.
Doesn't mean that you're a part of the family of the cross.

Just because you sit in church,
And maybe even attend small groups or Bible Studies.
Doesn't mean you're part of the family of the cross.
You may be near the cross
But not of the cross.
You may know the lingo and the logo,
But not the love glow of the family of the cross.

It's a warning to us.
If we're going to be a part of the family.
Then we had better be more than close to the cross
We'd better be under the cross, and in the blood and of the blood of the cross.
Because it is only the blood of cross that connect us to the savior.
So where are you Mother?
Where are you Son?

2. JESUS CARES FOR HIS FAMILY IN THEIR SUFFERING.

He cared for his family.

When Jesus saw his mother there,

Mary was the only person in the Bible who was with Jesus from beginning to end,
from birth to death.

She was with Jesus throughout his whole life.
From her birth pains to his death pains.

and the beloved disciple John was there next to his mother.

We are all blessed if we have one best friend.
 a person whom we are closer to than any other.
 Jesus had a best friend -- John "the beloved."
 This friend was where friends should be
 He was there at the foot of the cross.
 He was there at the foot of his suffering
 All the other disciples have run away.
 This doesn't mean that John was more courageous than all the other disciples.
 But it does mean that he loved Jesus more than all the other disciples.
 Courage is good,
 but love is better.
 Love will keep us there with Jesus even when our courage has failed.

"Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19:25-27

One of the last acts of Jesus was to care for his mother by entrusting her care into the hand of his best friend and cousin, John, the faithful disciple.

The question I was struck with was
 Could Jesus trust his mother to me?
 Could Jesus trust his brother, sister to you?
 Could Jesus trust his children to us?

But you know what?
 That is exactly what he has done.
 If we are Christians today.
 Jesus has entrusted his family to us.
 I can tell you with what has been going on in our community churches these past months,
 Is it any wonder that the world doesn't want anything to do with us,
 Or be entrusted to our care?
 They say: "Don't commit me to that family, Jesus,
 They can't even get along with one another!"
 Can Jesus trust his mother and brothers, sisters to us?
 Listen Jesus is saying to you: Here is my mother. Here is my son. My daughter.

3. JESUS CARES FOR THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.

**not just blood relatives,
 or those who are just catholic with you,
 or Lutheran, or Missouri synod with you,
 or Methodist or free church with you.**

What we discover at the cross is that
 Jesus is consistent in his loving as he was in his life.

He met with Nicodemus the Pharisee, and accepted him.
 He accepted the adulterous Samaritan woman forgave her.
 He accepted the Gaderene demoniac healed him
 He accepted the Centurion's Son and raised him from the dead

And now today on good Friday here at the cross

He accepted the first thief who cursed and then cried.
Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

He said to that thief, **“Today, you will be with me in paradise.”**

And the same quality of love

He gave to his mother

That same quality of forgiveness.

he gave to the thief,

the same quality of acceptance he gave to his Disciples

He gives to us today.

If any hunger and thirst after righteousness

They shall be filled.

Friends you can come today to the cross,

Even if you feel alone and outside the family.

You can come whether you're suffering,

Whether you hungry, in pain, full of sin or failure,

Or in the spirit of despair,

Jesus will meet you there.

Because he died for you.

And more than that,

He is there to welcome you.

To care for you as his mother,

To care for you as his brother

Can we do any less for those around us?