

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Honoring Mothers

"but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' The He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." John 19:25-27

One of the better-known moments from when Jesus was hanging in anguish on the cross is when He saw His mother and disciple and gave them both instructions. Notice that they were not confused and did not have to be told twice. They knew exactly what He meant and why He was saying it. Jesus was making sure that, since He was dying (even though He knew He would rise again He knew He

would not remain on Earth, so the logic behind the decision was still sound), she would be taken care of by someone whom He trusted.

As for Joseph, her husband, and Mary's other children (because we know that she & Joseph had children; the Scriptures refer to Jesus' brothers and sisters), we can only speculate. Perhaps Joseph died at a fairly young age? After all, at that time life expectancy was not what it is today. Perhaps Jesus felt that He could entrust this work to the disciple He loved more than His half-siblings. For whatever reason, the Lord made sure that Mary would not be left alone when He was gone.

Furthermore, speaking to His motivation for giving such commands, we know that He in His life faithfully kept the

Law of Moses; so we know that Jesus followed the commandment "Honor your father and mother." But what does it mean to honor someone? Maybe the image that comes to your mind when you think of showing honor to someone is a parade to celebrate their accomplishments, or a ceremony in which they are presented with a medal. Those are definitely some ways in our culture that we express honor & gratitude, but not every great deed makes the newspapers or is immortalized in song. So it is in the little things that we must show those around us, especially those whom we love, just how much they mean to us and how thankful we are to have them in our lives.

Specifically, when Jesus said what He did to His mother and disciple, He was honoring her by providing for her just as she had provided for Him. The Scriptures plainly teach that when children are older, they are to take care of their parents. "But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God." (1 Tim. 5:4) Furthermore, we are told in no uncertain terms that to fail to do so when we have the ability is most displeasing to the Lord; "But

if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Tim. 5:8)

In the United States, Mother's Day was first officially recognized in 1910 by West Virginia. Since then it has grown and is celebrated all over the world. Yet is one day out of the year all that we do to acknowledge the labor and devotion that our mothers have done for us? The concept of honoring one's mother is not something that anyone can limit to a day or month; it is an attitude that is shown (or not shown) in everything we say and do.

Ask yourself, and answer truthfully: when I speak to my mother (and how often would that be, exactly?), am I kind? Respectful? When I speak to others about my mother, do I praise her or speak evil about her? When was the last time you thanked your mother for all that she has done? When was the last time you told her that you loved her? Consider: "Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother

be glad; let her who bore you rejoice." (Prov. 23:22-25)

Unlike burnt offerings, resting on the Sabbath, and circumcision, the commandment to honor one's parents was reiterated in the new law under Christ. It applies to us today. The only real difference is that if someone does not honor their father or mother, they will not be put to death as punishment. Young, old, and everywhere in between, you must honor your mother; to fail to do so is to violate God's commandment and sin. Young children still at home honor their mothers by doing as they're told; when we are grown, we honor them by spending time with them, listening to their advice, and taking care of them when they need help.

Parents have a heavy responsibility in raising children (especially if they take care to raise them according to the Bible); it should not be a thankless job. If we can hardly be bothered to honor our physical father and mother, how can we hope to honor the Lord as our Heavenly Father? The basic family environment teaches us a lot about how our relationship with God ought to be. Our earthly parents are not perfect, but then again, neither are we. Be sure you do not leave undone what the Lord has commanded you to do!

Jarred Currence

God gave you a gift of

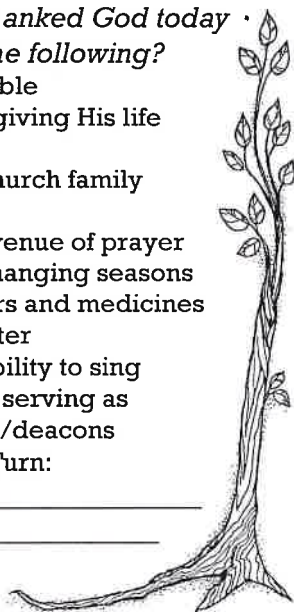
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seconds today. Have
you used one to say

THANK YOU?

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

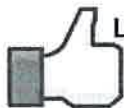
- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Jobs
- The avenue of prayer
- The changing seasons
- Doctors and medicines
- Laughter
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- Your Turn:



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Who Shall Separate?

J Q A R K K E T F A M I N E R X V H V L
 B D G L O L N O F H Z R E T S Y L O A Y
 O D Q W P C L O V E D R I X W C O C J I
 V R J Z B J L S O V O Q T L C R K E E N
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 V P B Y I K D R H C O N D E M N P M N N
 N S F I H U T B O O D S K N B B X L B X
 C D P Y O V Z A Z N B F C R U C B L X B
 F K O V J H Y O K Q Z Z B B D P A V Y E
 K I V Z V P I I K U D X W F V X I H V M
 R L L Y C M O S X E B W K P T P E J P R
 O L K B H F S P U R Z B V T K F Q C X D
 O E V X N E G A C O O K I N R F M B K H
 V D J T O W M R F R M Q W I S R A E D F
 X V D I S T R E S S D Z G J C C Z S N G
 E P B W G W U I C N W D W T P V Y Y M H
 T M T K V S B O U X P A Q Y K C O J T K

DIRECTIONS: Look up the scripture in the Bible, and find the answer in the crossword above.

Rom. 8:31, If God is for us, who can be _____ us?

Rom. 8:32, He who did not _____ His own Son but gave Him up for us all,

Rom. 8:33, ...God's elect? It is God who _____.

Rom. 8:34, Who is to _____? Christ Jesus is the one who died--

Rom. 8:34, who _____ is interceding for us.

Rom. 8:35, Shall tribulation, or _____, or persecution..

Rom. 8:35, ...or _____, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Rom. 8:36, For your sake we are being _____ all the day long;

Rom. 8:37, No, in all these things we are more than _____

Rom. 8:37, ...through Him who _____ us.

Rom. 8:38, For I am sure that _____ death nor life,

Rom. 8:39, nor anything else in all _____, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.