

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 19:26-27**.
- B. This is the second in a series on the sayings of Jesus while on the cross. Jesus said seven very important things while being crucified and they deserve our study.
- C. This series will continue for the next several Sunday nights.
- D. The seven sayings are:
  - 1. "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk. 23:34).
  - 2. "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Lk. 23:43).
  - 3. "Woman, behold, your son!" **27** Then He said^ to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" (Jn. 19:26-27)
  - 4. "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" (Mt. 27:46).
  - 5. "I am thirsty" (Jn. 19:28).
  - 6. "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).
  - 7. "Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT" (Lk. 23:46).
- E. Tonight's lesson comes from Jn. 19:26,27:  
"Woman, behold, your son!" **27** Then He said^ to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!."

## I. THE SITUATION.

- A. Jesus is fully conscious of everything going on, despite of all that His body and soul had endured.
- B. He, who is here, bearing the sins of the whole world amid the most unspeakable personal suffering is, nevertheless, fully aware of what God is now providing for Him.
- C. Even now, as X dies, Mary is in His heart. Nothing more tender and touching is found in the gospel story than this love of Jesus for His mother.
- D. When John writes that Jesus saw "his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved" we are to note, not only that Jesus saw these two in particular but that His mind at once turned to what He wanted these two to do.
- E. The phrase, "the disciple standing by" means that John was standing by Jesus' mother. He was already showing love, support, and care to Mary. This is an intimate touch in the narrative.
- F. The suffering of John was like that of Mary. These two belonged together because in the death of Jesus these two were losing something more than the rest.

## II. "WOMAN, BEHOLD, YOUR SON!"

- A. No interval or hesitation ensues. In Jesus' death, Mary loses an earthly son and gains another.
- B. "Woman."  
But why does Jesus say, "Woman"? Please consider the following:
  - 1. Many commentators will remark that such a word is not disrespectful.
  - 2. But there is more to be understood here because Jesus said the same thing to Mary in Cana of Galilee (Jn. 2:4).  
**And Jesus said^ to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."**
  - 3. Ever since Jesus took up His work of redemption a new relationship to His mother took precedence over the old one of mere mother and son.
  - 4. From the time of Jesus' birth to the beginning of His ministry Jesus was a boy who listened and obeyed the commands and directions of His earthly mother, Mary. He was dependent on her parental position.
  - 5. But now that Jesus had begun in His ministry, and was now concluding His redemptive work with His death, the relationship between Jesus and Mary is different. This is a higher, holier, and more blessed relation because now this son of Mary, is doing the mediating work to win the

eternal salvation of Mary and everyone else.

6. Therefore, in relation to what Jesus is doing on the cross (saving the world from sin), Mary is a woman in need of that salvation, not His mother.
  7. Jesus introduced this idea in Jn., chapter 2 at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee and was showing her as well as those around that His relationship with Mary was not different. It was not mother--son, but was woman--Savior. Jesus is not speaking to Mary in John chapter 2 as her son, but rather as her Savior, so He calls her "woman."
- C. Not "Mother of God."
1. If such a title had been due Mary (as the Roman Catholics give her) Christ would have honored it at some time during His ministry, as especially here. Mary was not the "mother of god" nor a perpetual virgin, but rather Jesus' earthly mother who now stood before a crucified X as one who stands in need of His atoning death.
- D. "Behold your son!"
- This has been misunderstood, but it need not be.
1. Jesus is not being terse, or accusative. Nor is He trying to test her feelings about the whole situation.
  2. Rather (in the Greek) the emphasis is on "thy son" and the saying is meant to say, "this is now your son."
  3. Jesus leaves John as a substitute son to care for Mary.

### III. "BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER!"

- A. Jesus had good reason for adding His second word to John. Jesus is making His personal will and testament. Despite all its brevity that will and testament should mention each person to whom a bequest is made. X is giving the care of Mary to John the apostle.
- B. Why did Jesus select John? The probably answer is that John was close to Jesus' heart, and so the trust was laid upon him.
- C. "...from that hour..."
1. The phrase, "from that hour" might leave the impression that the beloved disciple immediately led Mary away from the cross. Yet John's usage of the word "hour" in this gospel would not necessarily require this interpretation. If this were true the beloved disciple could not have witnessed the later events connected with the dying of Jesus (19:35).  
*And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.*
  2. Instead, this means that from that time Jesus' mother was in the care of the beloved disciple.
  3. Tradition holds that John took Mary to live in his own house, in Jerusalem for the next 11 years. When Mary died, only then did John go out to preach the gospel to the world, spending much time in Ephesus.
  4. The last mention of Mary, mother of Jesus, is found in Ac. 1:14 where she is one of the 120 disciples gathered together on the day of Pentecost.  
*These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What can we learn from this passage of Scripture?
1. Jesus was fully in control of the situation, allowing Himself to be crucified.
  2. Jesus addressed Mary as "woman" showing that His relationship with her was one of Savior to person in need of salvation.
  3. Jesus made a special point of seeing that his earthly mother was taken care of.
  4. The apostle John was entrusted with the physical care of Mary.
- B. May we in our live see to it that our loved ones are taken care.

- C. May we deeply appreciate the love of Jesus shown at Calvary for all the world, and especially to Mary.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.