

## Honor Thy Mother

Today is Mother's Day – the day we set aside to thank and honor our Mom. Restaurants will be full of families celebrating the special day with mom. Flower shops and garden stores had a big day yesterday and moms will be receiving phone calls, greeting cards and gifts from their out-of-town children. Moms have a special relationship with their children. They brought children into the world and probably did more than their share of changing diapers and preparing meals. They nursed injuries and drove the family taxi to take the kids to ball games, school and church activities. They live a life of sacrifice for their children. So, on this special day we do our best to say thanks to our mom.



So, what kind of relationship did Jesus have with his mother? Mary brought the infant Jesus into the world. Could you imagine being the Mother of our Lord and Savior? That creates a special relationship. Even before His birth Mary knew that Jesus had a divine purpose for being on earth. It was a lot to take in. *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19).*

And Mary was special, too. Knowing she would give birth to the Son of God, Mary said, *My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49)*

The relationship between Jesus and his mother is deep and vast. Jesus respected and loved his mother and He obeyed her every word. A great example of that is when Jesus and Mary attended a wedding at Cana. When they ran out of wine Mary ordered Jesus to go with the servants to fix the wine situation. She was obviously aware of Jesus' power, and told the servants to *do whatever he tells you (John 2:5)*. Jesus informed her that *my time had not yet come*, yet out of respect, he complied with her request. Jesus remained obedient to His parents, observing the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, until the age of 30, when He would begin His public ministry. *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).*

There are a few references to Mary accompanying Jesus in ministry. *After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days (John 2:12)*. It is clear Jesus, Mary and Joseph must have lived a simple life because when Jesus returned to preach in His own hometown the people marvelled at His wisdom, power and authority and said with some incredulity, *Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary? (Mark 6:3)*.

Jesus loved Mary so much that when he was being tortured on the cross he said, *woman, behold your son*. And then He said to the disciple, *Here is your mother*, to make sure Mary would be taken care of. *From that time on, this disciple took her into his home" (John 19:27)*

When Jesus said, *It is finished (John 19:30)*, it not only confirmed the end and completion of Jesus' earthly mission but Jesus was also was telling Mary that His suffering was now over.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, and thanks to God's blessing, the mothers of today's world have given birth to other children in the Family of God. It doesn't get any more special than that. Enjoy your special relationship with your Mom. And to all moms, Happy Mother's Day.

**Question:** As children of God, how do we honor and celebrate our own mother's key role in our life?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. Today we celebrate the special life-giving, sacrificial role of mother's in our lives. We pray we will always honor our parents, as we honor you. Amen.