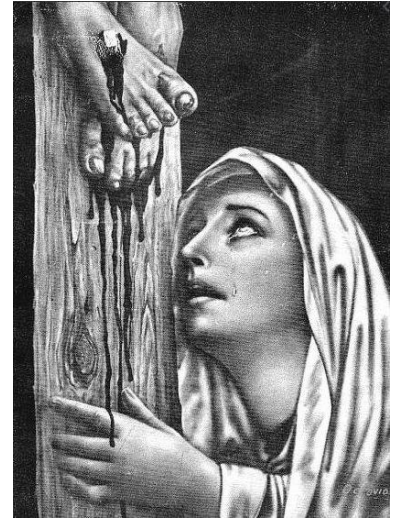


## What to Give On Mother's Day?

Today is Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a day set aside to honor the person in our lives who brought us into the world, nourished us, taught us right from wrong, and who strives -- to her dying day -- to be a positive influence in our lives. A mother's role is crucial for the person we are. Throughout our lives, our moms have big hopes for us. We are still a "work in progress."

If we live nearby, we typically honor our mom with a nice noon meal, a gift, flowers, and whatever else we think she will appreciate. If we are distant, we communicate through phone calls or prayers. How will you celebrate Mother's Day? A gift doesn't have to be big but needs to be thoughtful and given with love.

For Mary, the Mother of Jesus, a gift came in an unusual way. On Good Friday, Mary was watching her son die, nailed to a cross. It was a brutal scene. Spikes had been driven through Jesus' hands and feet. Blood was dripping from the crown of thorns wedged into her son's head. She watched as the young man she raised to be loving and caring was treated in the opposite way. The crowd had shouted, "Crucify Him!" They gambled for His clothes at the foot of the cross. There were no flowers -- just sour wine, offered to her Son on a stick. For Jesus' mom, here is when it all changed. Jesus wanted Mary to have support and love going forward. At the very time when the weight of the sins of the world was on His shoulders, Jesus wanted to make sure His Mom was cared for in the future. *When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "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 19:26-27).*



I am sure there were tears in Mary's eyes, seeing her son treated so poorly. Mary knew what Jesus had done with His life, but she didn't know that He was in the process of changing the world. Three days later, she would more fully realize His impact on the world for eternity. From the cross, he acknowledged His mother and entrusted His beloved disciple, John, to take care of her. John took Mary into His home, honoring Jesus' instructions.

The Bible tells us to honor our father and mother. In Exodus, we read, *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12).* God includes them in the Ten Commandments. And Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise (Ephesians 6:1-2).*

So, this Mother's Day, what are you giving the moms in your life? Following Jesus' example: Give her honor, words of thanks, and express your love for her. Give her time -- whether in person, on the phone, or in prayer. She has hopes and dreams of what you will become. You can honor her by living a godly life. Flowers are lovely, but they will eventually wilt. Gifts show a tangible appreciation, but what she wants most is your love. Love is everlasting. The Bible says: ... *But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).* Jesus said, "here is your son." Show your mom that you are the person that she and God dreamed you would be.

**Question:** How will you honor the mothers in your life?

**Prayer:** Dear God. We thank you for the mom who raised us. Just as Jesus looked after His mother, help us to show our genuine thanks to the mothers in our life. Amen.

Acknowledgment: The idea for this devotion is from an online sermon by Dr. Stan Coffey.