

Sermon Title: **Mary, the Mother of God**

Written: August 5, 2017

Preached: August 6, 2017 at Waterville FBC

Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Mark 3:31-35**Thesis: **Mary was the Mother of our Lord, Jesus, who was chosen by God the Father to nurture the Son of God in his early years;**Purpose: **But in the end, she became an example to us on being a disciple of the living God.**Key Word: **"Discipleship"**

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Mark 3:31-35**

A) The Setting:

1) **This summer we are continuing a study of Women of the Bible**

(a) So far, we looked at Ruth and Esther, two prominent women of the Old Testament with Books named after them.

(b) **There are many more we could look at in the Old Testament if we wished to keep going such as:**

(i) Eve, the mother of all mankind.

(ii) **Sarah and Hagar, the mothers of Nations – the Mothers of Abraham's people.**

• God's chosen people

• And many of the Arab nomadic nations.

(iii) Rachel and Leah, also mothers of Nations – Israel and the Edomites.

(iv) Or, how about Pharaoh's daughter who rescued Moses,

(v) Or Hannah, the mother of Samuel, just to name a few.

2) **But, I would like for us to spend the rest of this month looking at some women of the New Testament.**

(a) And today we are going to start with arguably the most important one of the New Testament.

(b) That is Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

3) **Mary was a very young woman who was betrothed, engaged to Joseph probably at about the age of 13.**

(a) Joseph was several years her senior;

(b) And it was normal for a marriage to be arranged at this age.

(c) **I point out that the average lifespan of those living in the 1st century was about 40.**

(d) Life was hard and without modern medicine it was also short.

4) **I titled this message, Mary, the Mother of God; but that is not quite accurate.**

(a) It was at this young age that the angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would have a Son of the Most High God.

(b) But, I must remind you that Mary was only the source of Jesus' human nature.

(c) Jesus was with God from eternity.

5) **Mary was highly favored because God chose her to raise the God-Child.**

(a) Mary humbly accepted her responsibility and for the first thirty years of Jesus' life she could almost forget who Jesus was . . .

(b) She raised Jesus in such a normal household with many other brothers and sisters that it was almost unremarkable.

6) **While there have been apocryphal books written that tell imaginative tales of miracles supposedly performed by Jesus as a child,**(a) . . . **the scriptures draw a curtain across Jesus' childhood years.**

(b) The only glimpse we get into Jesus as a child is one incident when He was twelve years old when Jesus stay behind at the temple discussing theology with the temple priests,

(c) Who were astounded at His understanding at such a young age.

7) **The short scripture I chose for us to look at this morning is a peek at the Life of Jesus where His family has come for an intervention.**

(a) There is so much we could have picked from the life of Mary . . .

(b) And we will talk about many events in this message; however, this scripture points to a significant change in Jesus' relationship with his family.

8) **All the things that Jesus has been doing are getting a lot of attention and many people are accusing Jesus of being either mad or in league with Satan.**

- (a) The family has come to tell Jesus to tone it down a bit.
 - (b) To be more careful with His words especially towards the Religious Leaders
- 9) **So, let us read it for ourselves in the Gospel of Mark 3:31-35.**

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **What kind of relationship have you had with your mother?**
 - (a) Those of us who have lived a few years know that our relationship with our children most often change with time.
 - (b) We may not like to think about it; but, this is just the way it is.
- 2) **While we act as authoritarian figures who teach and guide our children as best we can when they are young . . .**
 - (a) There comes a time when we have to let go and our relationship hopefully becomes one of friends, an advisor, and a faithful confidant.
 - (b) If you are fortunate enough to have your parent make it into later stages of life;
 - (i) the child may have to take on more of a parenting role . . .
 - (ii) hopefully, always respectful of their dignity at this stage in life.
- 3) **Today's reading is a moment when we see that Jesus has cut the apron strings of His mother and earthly family to be about the Father's business.**
 - (a) Jesus means no disrespect to His mother and family.
 - (b) He still loves them dearly; but they do not understand the true purpose for His coming.
 - (c) However, the time has come for Him to address that.
- 4) **All of them will have to face a decision;**
 - (a) Will Jesus just be a son or a brother to them?
 - (b) Or, will they become His disciple as they learn to worship Him as Lord?
- 5) **When Jesus asks who is His mother and brothers and sisters it is not that he has forgotten who they are or the love He holds for them.**
 - (a) Jesus said, that "**Whoever does the will of God, my Father is my brother sister and mother.**" (Mark 3:35)
 - (b) Jesus is no longer addressing them as a son or sibling;
 - (c) Jesus has assumed His role as Lord, the God come to earth as a Man.
- 6) **Mary and Jesus' family just don't understand yet . . .**
 - (a) That the time has come for Jesus to fulfill his purpose as the God-Man come to earth.
 - (b) For Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
 - (c) This is what the Angel said to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "**She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**"
- 7) While Mary is not to be put on a pedestal, there are several ways that Mary is an example for us in our relationship with Jesus.

TS: **So, let's take a quick look at some of those beginning with . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **Mary's Commitment to God**

- 1) **We all need a faith that is similar to Mary's.**
 - (a) Mary said in Luke 1:38, "**Behold the servant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.**"
 - (b) Mary was willing to put her faith in what the Angel of the Lord said.
 - (c) Mary humbled herself and allowed God to be in charge.
 - (d) This simple prayer of submission to God's will needs to be our prayer as well.
- 2) **Mary valued her commitment to God far above what others thought of her.**
 - (a) She was going to be pregnant before she was married and the worst part was that Joseph wasn't even the father!
 - (b) This was scandalous at best and at worst she could be stoned to death.
 - (c) But Mary put her faith in God to work it out and not worry about opinions of others.

TS: **Next, we have . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **Mary's Not Fully Understanding the Teaching of Jesus**

- 1) **Mary did not fully understand what Jesus was teaching.**
 - (a) She was pregnant by the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (b) She did not understand how this could be?
 - (c) She was told she would give birth to the Son of God.
 - (d) She may not have understood but she trusted God's messenger.
- 2) **Mary did not understand what Jesus always told her.**
 - (a) She did not understand when He stayed behind at the temple to be about His Father's business while she was worried sick over Him.
 - (b) She did not understand when he confronted the Religious leaders.
 - (c) She certainly did not understand why He had to suffer and die on a cross.
 - (d) But she trusted in Jesus pondering all that had happened in her heart.
 - (e) Meaning she thought about these strange events and what they could mean.
- 3) **So, it should not be surprising to us when we don't always understand the plan that God has for us and our children.**
 - (a) Like Mary, we need to just place our trust and put our faith in Jesus.
 - (b) God's ways are not our ways and we cannot see the big picture like God can.

TS: **I also want to point out that . . .**

C) Key Point #3: **Mary's Faith Kept Her Sexually Pure**

- 1) **Mary had no sexual relations with anyone until she was married and Jesus had been born.**
 - (a) Mary was a faithful wife to her husband before God.
 - (b) After Jesus, she gave birth to many other brothers and sisters.
- 2) **Today, the world says we need to try out the car before we buy it.**
 - (a) We need to make sure we are compatible.
 - (b) What if we can't stand living together.
- 3) **The problem with that attitude is we are not buying a car that we will have for a little while and then get another when we tire of it.**
 - (a) We are committing ourselves to a life partner in sickness and health, good times and bad, till death parts you.
 - (b) The Relationship business takes work and a lot of commitment.
- 4) **When you are committed to a relationship you do what you have to do to make it work and get through it.**
 - (a) You get marriage counseling if needed.
 - (b) You work at learning how to care for another and what true love means.
- 5) **God loved us . . . that means that God made a choice to show love to us even though we didn't deserve it.**
 - (a) He loved us so much that He sent His Son to suffer and die for our sins so we could be restored into a right relationship with God.
 - (b) Now that is commitment!

TS: **So finally, . . .**

D) Key Point #: **Mary's Faith Led Her to Become a Disciple**

- 1) **Mary's relationship changed in her role as Jesus' mother as she became His disciple.**
 - (a) Mary spent time with the God in prayer.
 - (b) Mary was with Jesus at the cross when Jesus asked John to look after her.
 - (c) John 19:26-27 says, "**When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved (John) standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'**" ²⁷ **Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'** **And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home."**
- 2) **Mary was present with the disciples and in fact, the last time we see Mary she was present with the disciples.**
 - (a) **Acts 1:13** gives a list of the Apostles present and then in **Acts 1:14** it says that, "**All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with**

certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers."

- (b) Every day we need to spend time in prayer, communicating with God;
- (c) And letting God communicate with us.

TS: **So, in conclusion . . .**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) **God chose Mary to be the Mother with whom Jesus would grow up.**

- 1) She was highly favored and blessed by God.
- 2) She was a woman of faith and faithful to her God.
- 3) She was a humble woman who endured moments of ecstasy and of great agony.
- 4) **Some have tried to say that Mary was more than that; that she was a Saint to whom we should pray and worship as the mother of God.**
 - (a) And while she was a wonderful mother and person . . .
 - (b) Mary is no different than you and I before God.
- 5) **God has no mother; but an earthly woman to be a mother to an earthly Son.**
 - (a) God came to live as one of us so we could better relate.
 - (b) We have a God who has lived and suffered like we do.
 - (c) We have a God who face temptation like us.
 - (d) We have a God we can relate to in every way.
- 6) **Mary was Jesus' earthly mother.**
 - (a) She was a servant of the Living Lord who got to raise God's earthly Son.
 - (b) But she eventually became a disciple of Jesus.

B) **Mary eventually had to make a decision to accept Jesus as her Lord.**

- 1) Each of us must also eventually decide what we are going to do with Jesus.
- 2) When the time came for Jesus to change His priority in His family relationships, Mary and the rest could have taken it personally as a slight.
- 3) **But instead Mary pondered all these things that had happened in the life of her eldest Son:**
 - (a) The Announcement by the Angel
 - (b) The visit by shepherds and wise men from the East.
 - (c) The prophecies of Simeon and Anna
 - (d) Jesus teachings in the Temple as a boy.
 - (e) Jesus' Death, Resurrection and Ascension.
- 4) **Mary was last seen with the rest of Jesus' disciples for she had become one of them as well.**
 - (a) Mary's relationship had to change with her Son, Jesus.
 - (b) This is a natural progression just as the relationship with our own children has to change.
- 5) **The thing is . . . that for us to become disciples of Jesus our relationship also has to change.**
 - (a) We have to make a decision of whether we are going to just chock up Jesus to a madman . . .
 - (b) **Or are we going to accept Him as our Lord and Savior.**
- 6) **He came to do the Father's business and that was to save His people from their sins.**
 - (a) But, in order to be one of the people Jesus came for, you must make a commitment to Jesus.
 - (b) You have to make Jesus the first priority in your life.
 - (c) That means that Jesus comes before your job, your desires, and even sometimes . . . your families.
- 7) **What will you do with Jesus?**
 - (a) Is He just someone you admire?
 - (b) Or is Jesus your Lord?

IV) Invitation: **Let us Pray!**