

May 2017

From the Pastor



## Jesus' Care for Mary

During our Maundy Thursday service, we traditionally go through the last seven things Jesus said before He died. It is a time of deep reflection and thankfulness for what Jesus did for us.

This year one of the things that Jesus said struck me in a way that I had never thought of before. I saw Jesus' care for Mary, the woman who raised Him. This is what is recorded in the gospel of John.

**John 19:25-27** <sup>25</sup> ...but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (ESV)

Jesus is in agony. He has nails pounded into His flesh that the weight of His body is pulling on. He has been beaten, whipped and must have been exhausted. Yet, during all this He looks down from the cross at Mary, the woman who raised Him, and His love goes out for Her.

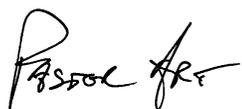
I am thinking that Jesus, being the eldest in His family, cared for His mother. He may not have been home all the time, but I am sure that He felt the responsibility for her. Since we do not hear about Joseph, Mary's husband, at this time, I would guess that Joseph was no longer alive. This is only a guess. One thing is for sure, Joseph was not around to care for Mary.



Jesus, seeing His grieving mother, knowing that she soon would be without His care, turns to the disciple (which most biblical scholars believe is John) and tells him to take care of her. Mary would have been a widow at this time, so she would not have anyone to care for her. Knowing this, Jesus makes sure her needs are met.

This Mother's Day, think about the love Jesus had for His mother. Let me encourage you to show your mom how much you care for her. Also know that Jesus loves you with the same love He has for Mary.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.