

Should I?: Behold Your Mother

Scripture used: [John 19:25-27 \(NKJV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Today, Mother's Day, Pastor Hurmon continued with the *Should I?* sermon series with a special message entitled, *Behold Your Mother*. As Jesus was dying on the cross, He looked down from the cross at His disciple John and His mother Mary. Jesus turned to Mary and said, "Woman, behold your son!" and then turning to John He said, "Behold your mother!" Out of His deep love and grace, Jesus performed a spiritual adoption between John and Mary. As the eldest son, Jesus ensured that Mary would be cared for after His death. John could never replace Jesus, but in this miracle, Jesus provided someone to comfort and care for Mary, and also someone to stand in where John needed a spiritual mother. How can we use these words Jesus said to John in our own relationships with our mothers? How should we respond to our own mother's imperfections? The lessons in this message apply not only to our mothers and close mother figures, but the lessons also extend out to all those who are close to our hearts, where the relationship has both been significant in our lives and has potentially brought pain and struggle in different ways. How should we proceed with those relationships?

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Behold your mother in her full view with her struggle to live out her purpose.** The word "behold" means more than to see. It means to perceive, take a good look, and hold in full view. Mary was there at Jesus' conception, his birth, in the escape to Egypt, at the beginning of his public ministry, and at the foot of the cross. Her purpose was to provide the best she could for Jesus, but in her imperfection, she was not always there perfectly. Like all mothers, she inevitably failed her children at times (for example, [Luke 2:41-52](#)). In beholding our mothers in full view, we should celebrate and affirm what they did get right.
- 2) **Behold your mother in the full view of her unspeakable pain.** Pastor Hurmon gave the illustration of a blade of grass that grows through the tiny crack in a concrete sidewalk. In spite of the weight of the cement slab, that fragile blade of grass fights to find the sun and grow. We should behold our mothers remembering the slab of concrete that life has laid on them. We should know our mother's story, and seek to understand the concrete slab that has caused them pain and influenced their motherhood. In doing so, we can move from apathy to empathy. Our closest relationships, especially our mothers (and fathers), have the greatest potential to inflict the greatest pain in our lives, because we want and need so desperately faithful love from them. Without minimizing the ways we may have been wounded by our mothers, beholding their pain can help us to acknowledge where the pain in their lives may have impacted their ability to love us in the way that we hoped for.
- 3) **Behold your mother in full view of her unfolding promise.** In [Acts 1:14 \(NIV\)](#) Mary is with the disciples in the upper room. She continued the work of Jesus even after his resurrection. If our mothers are still with us, God is not finished with them yet. We should continue to honor and respect them and continue to hope for the unfolding promise that is to come through them. In some cases, that may still mean setting boundaries or being wise in our relationships, even as we pray for our mothers and want good for them. We are the next chapter of our mother's story. We should strive to be the best that we can be in order to honor and respect our mothers.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Ask God to help us see and appreciate our mothers with fresh eyes and a renewed love. Lift up your eyes and behold the miracles that God has provided for you. What did your mother (or key mother figure) get right in the way she impacted your life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [John 19:25-27 \(NKJV\)](#). Does it surprise you that this was a priority for Jesus as He was dying on the cross? What does it mean for how we should be prioritizing our own family relationships? Pastor Hurmon challenged us to understand our mother's story and move from apathy to empathy through grace. He provided the reflection question, "What's the concrete slab that was/is upon your mother's fragile life? How might this insight change the way you see and relate to her?"
- 3) **DO** - Behold your mother in full view. Set aside sometime this week to write a list of things your mother got right. If you are able, share this list with your mother and thank her. If you are not able to do this with your mother, then share the list with a friend, or with God in prayer, and thank Him for what He did for you through her. Please join us next Sunday, May 15, for the final sermon in the *Should I?* series.