

The Third Saying: Affection

John 19: 25-27

In our previous studies we have seen Jesus saying “*Father, forgive them*” and “*Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.*” In this third saying, we find some encouragement for our church, our homes, our lives.

I. Encouragement for our church --- I see *women* caring for Christ at the cross (v.25).

Three women are pictured in our text, all of them named Mary, and we see only one disciple. 75% of those who courageously cared for Christ at the foot of the cross were women, and they weren’t men.

A. Mary --- “the mother of Jesus” --- she represents those known for their parenting.

Some of you mothers are simply known as “the mother of ____.” Your life has been devoted to the care of your children. You are the backbone and strength of our church, our city, and our society.

You reply, “*No, Pastor, I’ve failed as a mom. I am of no worth to anybody. I’m not a good parent.*”

(1). Mary lost her son for “*three days*” having left the city without him (Lk. 2:46).

(2). Mary lived her life in poverty unable to provide for her own children.

(3). Mary’s Son was crucified, her other children were converted very late in life.

B. Mary --- “the wife of Cleophas” --- she represents those known for their partner.

We know very little of this Mary except that she was the “*wife of Cleophas.*” She is called a sister to Mary, a common term for sisters-in-law in that time. This Mary is known because of her husband.

So too, you may be in the shadow of your husband’s prominence, but you have value and identity.

C. Mary --- “of Magdalene” or Magda. --- she represents those known for their past.

She is the demoniac who had seven demons cast from her. She is not known for a husband or any children, but simply as “*the crazy woman from Magda.*” It could be that you come to church with a past (divorce, public sins, family). Never forget: What counts in your life is not where you have been, but who and where you are *this day* by God’s grace. Find your identity in Jesus Christ.

II. Encouragement for our homes --- I see Christ caring for His mother to the end (v.26).

As Jesus hangs on the cross, He turns His attention to the mother who has loved and cared for Him.

He speaks to His mother and gives comfort, then Jesus to John and gives to him a commandment.

A. Our family is of supreme importance.

There are those who say, “I’m too busy working to spend time with my family.” We must never lose sight of the cross and how Christ took care of His mother before death, an example for us.

“Can he be a good Christian that spends all his religion abroad and leaves none for his nearest relations at home?” Puritan William Gurnall

B. You are never too old to honor your father and mother.

“*Woman, behold thy son.*” Jesus is now 33, but he turns the eye of his mother to John, as the son who will now care for her. Christ gives us a wonderful example of the importance of familial love.

III. Encouragement for our obedience ---- I see John obeying Christ’s command (v.27).

Christ says to John, the writer of this gospel, “*Behold thy mother.*” Salome was John’s mother, but Christ commands John to take Mary as His own mother and care for her and look at his response.

A. Obedience to Christ is to be immediate . . . “and from that hour . . . (he) took her”

He didn’t just say, “yes, Master,” he obeyed promptly with action and deed.

B. Obedience to Christ is always personal . . . “and from that hour *that* disciple took her”

Where were the other disciples? It was of no concern to John --- he obeyed himself.

C. Obedience to Christ is sometimes sacrificial . . . “that disciple took her unto his own home.”

When it comes to obeying Christ, it’s not “How?” or “Why?” or “Can’t!” or “Won’t?” but “Yes!”