

brentwood baptist

Jesus Looks Like...Family

John 19:25-27

June 12, 2022

MAIN POINT

The friends and family of Jesus who showed up at the cross teach us what it means to be devoted to Him.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is one achievement you had as a kid that you remember being particularly proud of?

Describe a time when you've been proud of a child in your life. What did it feel like? Why were you so proud?

We are all emotionally invested in the children in our lives. In the scene from the cross described in John 19:25-27, Mary and some of Jesus' closest friends watched helplessly as He was crucified. Imagine the emotions Mary felt as she watched her Son, who she was so proud of and loved so deeply, suffering on the cross.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Read John 19:23-27. From the people present at the cross, we learn that it is a place of redemption, rebuke, reward, restoration, and responsibility. Let's look at each of those ways we are to view the cross and the implications for our lives today.

Have a volunteer read Luke 8:1-3 and John 20:1-2,10-18.

According to Luke 8:1-3, what role did Mary Magdalene play in Jesus' earthly ministry?

What about Mary's life makes her a good example of the redemptive power of Jesus? How would her life have looked differently if Jesus hadn't healed her?

What impact might Mary's redemption have had on her presence near the cross that day? Additionally, what impact might her redemption have had on her response to Jesus' missing body and His post-resurrection appearance in John 20?

We know from Luke's record that Mary had been cured of demon possession (Luke 8:2) and also had helped support Jesus financially. No doubt His redemptive work in her life made her a devoted follower of Him, even following Him to the cross and to His tomb.

As a result of Jesus' work on the cross, from what are we all redeemed? What specifically has Jesus redeemed you from, like Mary's demons?

Have a volunteer read Mark 15:40 and Matthew 20:17-28.

Mary's sister Salome was also near the cross. Salome was the mother of James and John. She was the one who had come to Jesus asking places of honor for her boys.

Why do you think Salome made this request to Jesus? How do you relate to her?

What was Jesus saying by His response in verse 22?

In light of this scene in Matthew 20, how do you think Salome felt while watching Jesus "drink the cup" of suffering and death for her, her sons, and the rest of us?

Salome selfishly wanted places of position, power, and prestige for her sons and for herself. She assumed that greatness in God's kingdom was based on status, rank, power, and authority. Jesus confronted that misunderstanding by alluding to the fact that the path to such authority lay through the same kind of suffering he would undergo. By asking for the positions of greatest authority, they were asking for the most bitter cup of suffering. Jesus acknowledged their earnest intention, noting that they would indeed suffer. James was eventually martyred (Acts 12:2), and John was exiled (Rev. 1:9). At the cross, Salome didn't see the splendor and honor of a throne but the shame and horror of the cross.

Read Revelation 3:19. Why does God rebuke His children? Can the cross be a place of redemption for us if we don't also allow it to be a place of rebuke?

Have a volunteer read John 19:26 and Luke 1:46-55.

What was Mary's immediate reward that day at the cross as Jesus spoke those words to her (John 19:26)? What was Jesus telling His mother and His disciple?

Based on Mary's song in Luke 1, what might she have considered her greatest reward as the mother of Christ?

In humble submission, Mary served God and followed His will for her life. In her song of praise to God, she celebrated God's greatness, expressed in His power to save. Mary rejoiced that God came near to her and rescued her from her lowly state. She experienced the freedom to serve the One who showered His grace on her.

Read Romans 3:21-26. How is the cross a place of reward for you?

When you think of the rewards bestowed on you as a child of God, what specific things come to mind? What is the appropriate response to such truth?

Have a volunteer read John 19:27 and 1 John 1:9.

Jesus' trial and crucifixion was a difficult time for the disciples. Confused and scared, they fled from Jesus' presence, and even denied knowing Him. But there John stood at the foot of the cross. As a result, Jesus looked lovingly on John, restored him to right relationship with Him, and entrusted him with the responsibility of taking Jesus' own place in caring for Mary.

Read 1 John 1:9. What does spiritual restoration look like? What part does the cross play in our being restored back to God? Once we have been restored to God, what is our responsibility as Christ followers?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

The cross is a place of redemption, rebuke, reward, restoration, and responsibility. Which of these things has the cross been for you lately? Why? Would you add anything to this list?

What are some specific ways your spiritual family has met your needs and demonstrated compassion to you, like Jesus modeled from the cross?

In your own words, what does it mean to draw near to the cross? What does that look like for us today? Why is this something every Christ-follower should do?

PRAYER

As you close in prayer, thank God for the cross. Specifically thank Him for the redemption, rebuke, rewards, restoration, and responsibility God gives to His children. Pray that as His children we will embrace each of these aspects of our relationship with Him.

COMMENTARY

John 19:25-27

The first part of verse 25 serves as a transitional comparison to the second part and as a consideration of the friends of Jesus. The soldiers were involved in their profiting from the victim's few possessions. The friends, however, offer a significant contrast. These friends of Jesus are described as observers who were standing near the cross. There are four women mentioned: the mother of Jesus, her sister, Mary (the wife) of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Only two of these women appear elsewhere in John: the mother of Jesus (2:1-5) and Mary Magdalene (20:1-2,11-18). In addition to the women, one man is also mentioned as a friend of Jesus standing near (v. 27). That man is identified as the disciple whom he loved and who was so designated earlier (see 13:23-25). That disciple—John—is then linked to the mother of Jesus both by the fact that they were standing together in Jesus' sight and by the testamentary-type disposition that follows (v. 27).

Most scholars understand this passage as a commitment of Mary, Jesus' mother, to John, since Joseph was probably already dead by this point and Jesus knew that none of His half-brothers had yet made a commitment to His mission. Perhaps at that point Mary might have remembered Simeon's prophecy (Luke 2:34-35). But the commitment was mutual, and some interpreters have understood this as a theological statement beyond the boundaries of uniting the two people perhaps most loved by Jesus on earth. The significance of those statements is further defined by John's editorial note that "from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." The traditional role of the oldest son in a Jewish family was to provide for the care of the mother when the husband or father of the house was no longer around to care for her. It seems clear that Jesus here fulfilled His family responsibility as a dutiful Son.

Though this is the first of the "seven last words" recorded by John, it is in fact a third in the recognized series. The contrast between the goods-seeking soldiers and the observant friends at the cross is thus complete. Jesus, who was concerned to care for the disciples at the time of His arrest (18:8), was likewise concerned to care for His mother at the time of His death while the soldiers played their game for His clothes.