

Christ's Third Saying From The Cross

“ . . . He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother!” (John 19:26, 27)

Because your mother has always been your caregiver, when the tables are turned in her life, taking care of her can be a very challenging experience. Although you are a capable adult, in her eyes you are still her little one. Also, don't be surprised if you cannot please her in every way. You may not be patient, caring, or fast enough in responding to her needs, or another member of the family may do the job better.

If that is not enough, there are always other assignments like buying groceries, keeping doctor appointments, making trips to the pharmacy, paying the monthly bills, washing dishes, washing and drying clothes, and caring for other personal needs. Also, in our day, with all the red tape that is attached to every part of life, there are forms, claims and other issues associated with Medicare and insurance companies that must not be overlooked.

We know the circumstances and challenges of Christ's day were very different than ours. Yet He did not shirk the responsibility of taking care of His earthly mother. When the hour of His death arrived, it was clear that He had made special plans and accommodations. John, His beloved disciple, would take care of His mother, and Mary, whose heart was closest to the heart of Jesus, would live the remainder of her life with John.

Christ's statement to Mary was an expression of honor! The God Who said, “Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exo. 20:12), came to this earth and “was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7). With human flesh draped around Him, He obeyed the same commandment that He had given to men. And even when He was dying, He continued to obey that commandment, honoring His mother with His thoughtfulness and provisions.

Christ's statement to John was an example of trust! The Scriptures are very clear concerning John's love of and trust in Jesus. Although John had fled after Christ's arrest with the other disciples, in love and trust, he returned to the cross. And the one who trusted Christ became the one Christ Himself trusted. As Jesus trusted John to take Mary to his own home and to lovingly provide for her in His absence, may He trust us to do His bidding.

Christ's statement to both was an exhibition of love! The fact that Jesus spoke to both His earthly mother and John from the cross indicates they were on His heart. He loved Mary so much that He guarded her future; He loved John so much that He gave Him a special ministry. He had us on His heart also and lovingly died for us. He still has us on His heart and lovingly speaks to us by His Spirit. Like John, may we hasten to do His will.

