

3rd Word From The Cross

3-17-19

Affection

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Larry: Godspell. Stir. Women's Retreat. Global Missions. Better Together.
- B. Slide7 Children at Risk: Spend time praying for the Lord to *rescue, heal & restore victims*.
- C. Slide8 St.Patrick - Born in Britain. Age 16 captured by pirates, taken to Ireland as a slave. Fed animals for 6 yrs & was converted at this time. Escaped, made it back home, becomes a cleric. Was **biblical & evangelical** in his preaching & his ministry (early 5th century). Returned to Ireland as a **Christian missionary**. He became a **bishop** in Ireland. *AKA the Apostle of Ireland*, he is *the primary patron saint* of Ireland. The churches he founded were independent of Rome. So it may be concluded that...he was neither Irish nor Roman Catholic. Oh, and he used the 3-leafed **shamrock** to preach the *trinity*.

II. Slide9,10 AFFECTION Our 3rd Word from the Cross. A Word of Affection

- A. John 19:25-27 ESV *standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*
 - 1. There is Jesus hanging in *between Earth* which rejected Him, and Heaven which seemingly forsook Him.
- B. We get to peer into a *very intimate moment* where Jesus *says his good-bye to His mom*.
 - 1. But doesn't it seem He'd *say a little more* than that?
 - 2. Slide11 (meet my mom at graduation) The year was 1983. I was 21 yrs old. 2 months before my wedding day. I was at Whittier Presbyterian Hosp. I found myself saying good-bye to my mom who was dying of breast cancer. She was in & out of a comma. I just wanted to be able to say **goodbye**. And she awoke by the grace of God. I not only got to say goodbye, but that *I loved her*. And she was very faintly able to tell me...that she loved me!

3. I wondered, why Jesus didn't say the same? Why didn't He say, *mom I love you?* But a closer look reveals **HE DID...with out stretched arms.**

C. Slide12 Why is this story a **personal encouragement** to us?

1. It is a personal encouragement to us *in that* Jesus **Cares** for us more.
2. It is a personal encouragement to us *in that* Jesus **CAN** care for us more.
3. It is a personal encouragement to us *in that* Jesus provides for us a **new spiritual family**.

III. Slide13a **JESUS CARES FOR US MORE** *it's a personal encouragement to us in that...*

A. **Importance?** [*what difference does this make in my life today?*]

1. *What's the importance* of this quick communication, *when you're a little bit busy...SAVING THE WHOLE WORLD.*
2. Here I believe Jesus expresses: *Christianity* isn't only about huge Cathedrals. 200 voice choirs. And International Crusades w/1000's coming to Christ. *It is also about the little things in life. It's about individual relationships. It's about human tenderness.*
3. Slide13b He remembered His mother...just as today *He remembers...*
 - a) *He remembers...*the businessman who brings a work problem to Him.
 - b) *He remembers...*the homemaker who is anxious about the bills being paid.
 - c) *He remembers...*the student who calls out to God in the midst of the bullying he/she is dealing w/at school.
 - d) *He remembers...*the child w/a scrapped knee who asks God to *make it all better.*

(1) Slide13c On Calvary's Cross He remembered **His mother**. On His Fathers Throne today **He remembers us**.

(a) Rom. 8:34 *It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

(2) His daily Loving care is like *honey* dripping into every nook & cranny of our life. *Bring the smallest, bring the slightest issues...to Him.*

B. Jesus Cares For Us More. *Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.*

C. If Jesus was so eager to care for his mother in her hour of need, **how much more** is he eager to care for His disciples who **hear** the Word of God today and **do** it.

1. Ordinarily one would reason just the opposite: *if He loved his disciples who were not his relatives, how much more would he love His own mother.*
2. But Jesus didn't view things in an ordinary way. *If he loved his mother with a natural affection, how much more can his obedient disciples count on his love.*

D. We know this because of Luke 8:19-21 *His mother came to him and his brothers also, and they were unable to get to him because of the crowds. And it was reported to him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see you." But he answered and said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.*

1. That was not a **depreciation** of his mother and brothers, **but** an **exaltation of obedience**. [He draws a distinction between his earthly & his spiritual family]
2. It means very clearly, those who hear the Word of God and do it **have a more ready access to Jesus' fellowship and help** than do his own family members.
 - a) **So** those who **hear** and **do** the Word of God have an even greater claim on Jesus' care than she. **So** if He took care of her, will he not much more provide for all your needs, *O ye of little faith?*

E. **Why is it mentioned right here?**

1. **Slide14 What happened right before this?** The soldiers gambled for his tunic.
 - a) John 19:23,24 ESV *When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things.*

2. A Jewish man usually had *5 pieces of clothing*.
 - a) They divided up the 4 between the 4 soldiers, & gambled for the 5th.
3. Normally, *this tunic* was given to the son...by his mother.

F. Taking Care of Family Business

G. It was the *duty of the oldest son* to provide for the caring of the family, if the father was gone. (Joseph must have died)

H. Family life in Israel was magnified to a high degree.

1. They also emphasized *the duty of children* to their **parents**.
2. *Honor your father & mother*. [5th com. & repeated in Eph.6:1,2]
3. Jesus here, is *living this out*. *Showing His responsibility to His mother*.
 - a) He was indignant when the Religious leaders *weren't* taking care of their parents in the name of God. Remember when they'd pronounce *Corban* on their money? Mrk7:11 (corban = given to God)
4. Herschel Ford said, *If any man is too busy, even in the Lord's work, to discharge his obligation to his family, let him look to Jesus on the cross, & remember the example He set.*

IV. Slide15a **JESUS CAN CARE FOR US MORE** *it's a personal encouragement to us in that*

A. If Jesus could provide for the needs of His own family in a moment of his *deepest weakness and humiliation*, how much more can He provide for **your need** in His **present power and exaltation?**

1. Not only are you, *as an obedient disciple*, in a better position **than** Jesus' own mother to receive blessing at the hand of the Lord, **but** He is now in a better position to give it to you **than** He was to her then.
2. The satisfaction made for our sin at Calvary was so complete that God honored this sacrifice by raising Jesus from the dead and giving him *incomparable glory and power and wealth of all things*.

3. Slide15b So Paul says in Phil.4:19, *My God shall supply all your needs according to **His riches in glory in Christ Jesus**.*

V. Slide16a **JESUS PROVIDES FOR US A NEW SPIRITUAL FAMILY** *it's a personal encouragement to us in that...*

A. Jesus' word to his mother encourages our faith is that it illustrates for us the benefits of the church, the body of Christ.

1. Notice that contrary to custom and expectation, Jesus did not admonish his own brothers to care for their mother.
 - a) Why *didn't* He pick His 1/2 brothers (James, Joseph *Jr*, Simon, or Jude) for this task? Mt.13:55 [They were *not present*. They were *not believers yet*]
2. Whatever the reason for not putting Mary in the care of her other sons, the new relationship between Mary and John illustrates for us the provision made for us **IN the body of Christ**.

B. Jesus said, *Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms for my sake and the gospel's, but that he will receive a hundred times as much **now in the present age**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; **and in the world to come eternal life**.*

1. Where **in this life** are we going to receive 100 children and 100 mothers?
Answer: in the **church**, the **family** of God.
2. When Jesus says to **Mary**, **Woman, behold, your son**. And to **John**, **Behold, your mother**. He is showing us how our needs are to be met when we have left everything to follow him.
3. Slide16b Paul said in Acts 20:28 that **Christ purchased the church of God with his own blood**. Therefore, one of the gifts Jesus gave to us from the cross was the **Church: a loving, caring, sustaining, encouraging family beyond family**.(Piper)

C. Would **you** have accepted this task from Jesus to care for **His mother**?

1. If **YES**, then is it any different if He asks you to take care of **your own**?
2. Would you be as eager to jump to it? (a grandparent, parent, friend)

3. Don't ignore family ties & responsibilities. **They matter.**
 - a) **Are your parents poor?** care for them. **Are they sick?** minister to them.
Live in another place? write/call them often.
4. **Widows** often need help or encouragement. **Single mom's** often need substitute fathers for their children. **The sick** need to be visited & cared for.

VI. Slide17a **THE LAST INCH OF A LONG SWORD**

- A. **Mary's last stand** (vs.25 *standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and...*)
 1. We would have all understood had she **swooned** at this sight. **Turned away** from watching no longer. **Even fled** from the scene.
But no, she doesn't slink away, doesn't faint, not even sink to the ground in her grief...but courageously **stood.**
- B. We have here... *The last inch of a long sword.*
- C. Slide17b In Simeon's Prophecy, in Lk.2:34,35 he said, *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*
 1. The sword started piercing when she came up pregnant as an unwed teen.
 2. In late 3rd-trimester, she had to travel 80+ miles to Bethlehem, where her husband forgot to make reservations.
 3. She then became a refugee to a foreign country for 2 yrs. (and if you think that was a fun vacation, then you never made **an international journey** w/an infant crying in the backseat...of a donkey)
 4. She had to hear all the stories of many toddlers slaughtered by Herod **all because of her baby.** [Yet, **they died** that He might live, and **He died** that they might live]
 5. Then the day she heard those frightening words, **I thought he was w/you!** She had lost her Jr. higher on a vacation to Jerusalem...3 days anguish...*the sword pierced again.* [Ever lost a child in the mall for 3 minutes?]
 6. She had meanwhile lost her husband.

7. What about the time when Her 1st-born son quit the family business to become an itinerant preacher?
8. What about the time when Mary was seeking Jesus with her other sons & were waiting outside. I wonder if she heard his response inside...
*Who is my **mother** & who are my **brothers**?...For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.*
9. **NOW**, the **death** of her son. The cruel & barbarous torturous flogging. The grueling 6 hours of watching someone die. **Then** if death wasn't enough, a spear thrust into his side *just to make sure*. Her sword was now in to the hilt.
 - a) Slide18 A.W.Pink, *Never such **bliss** at a human birth. Never such **sorrow** at an **inhuman death**.*

D. May we take courage in the *care & power & provision* of our Lord.

1. **If** he was eager to care for his mother, **how much more** eager will He be today to care for those who **hear** and **do** the Word of God.
2. **If** Jesus could provide for the needs of his own in the moment of *his **greatest weakness and humiliation***, **how much more** can he provide for **your need** in his present **wealth** of **power** and **exaltation**.
3. **And** if Jesus purchased the church with his own blood and ordained that in it *deprived mothers find sons and sons find mothers*, **then NO ONE** should be without a caring family today **in** the body of Christ.