

**Lenten Series:** “Live Like Jesus Is Dying.” “Jesus’ Sayings from the Cross”

**Sermon #2:** “Behold, Your Son”

**Scriptures:** John 19: 25-27

**Source:** Rev. Adam Hamilton at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, MO  
<http://www.cor.org/worship/sermon-archives/show/sermons/Behold-your-son/>

## Opening Video Clip

**PP#1:** John 19: 25-27

25 Jesus’ mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. 26 When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.” 27 Then He said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**Reader: John 19: 25-27**

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**PP#2:** *Image of Mary, Jesus’ mother, weeping at Jesus’ crucifixion*

I wish I could erase those images from my mind from that day. No mother should watch her son die. I wanted to scream, to stop them, to make it all stop. But I couldn’t do anything. I was frozen.

I wasn’t prepared for this day, even though I knew it was coming for months, years, since He was born. That old man, Simeon at the temple, when Jesus was eight days old, had told me that a sword would pierce my soul, because of my son.

I dreamed about those words for years. I imagined that as Jesus rose to power, the rulers—both Jewish and Roman—would try to stop Him. But I knew that God made Him the Messiah, and so I knew that somehow He would be able to pull the people together. He had special power from God. He did amazing things, wonderful things, God was certainly with Him. He was my son, but He was also God’s. And so, I always expected Him to win.

But there were all those dark things He also said, how He would suffer, and be persecuted, and how He would be put to death. I just didn’t know what to do with all that! I so wanted Him to succeed.

When we would talk about these things, He always said how He had to follow the will of His Heavenly Father. So I had to learn to be obedient to Him. I had to let God do with Him as God wanted. That was so hard! Surrendering my Son to God like this.

He did some strange things. He mixed with the wrong people: unclean people, lowly people, the outcasts and sinners. How could this be a holy man if He spent so much time caring about unholy people? But He did speak about justice, and true faith, and equality before God. I always thought His love for the outcasts was how He was showing that.

**PP#3:** Mark 3:21, 31-35

When His family heard what was happening, they came to take control of Him. They were saying, “He’s out of his mind!” . . .

A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, “Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you.”

He replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.”

But sometimes it became just too strange. One time I thought He got overheated and started speaking not from His right mind. He called His new followers His family. What? We were His family! Obviously He needed to take a break, to come home awhile. He was so overtired and exhausted. But when we tried to go get Him, He refused! He said “Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, mother.” I didn’t realize then that it wasn’t about me. He was doing something much larger.

I began to see how powerful His ministry was, how He lived for others, and poured Himself out. I worried about Him. He wouldn’t stop. He was driven. I had to let Him follow God His way. It was hard!

**PP#4:** *Image of where Jesus from the cross gives John charge over Mary.*

I’ll never forget those words He said to me from the cross. I was praying, begging God to just let Him die. I couldn’t bear watching Him suffer, knowing He was in such agony. Can you imagine a mother praying that her son would die? But He was doomed. I just wanted it over with so He wouldn’t be in such pain.

But as He was hanging there, He looked at me. His eyes were deep and full of feeling. I loved Him just so much! And I could see He loved me like He always had. And as He was hanging there, He was worried about me, about how I would get along after His death. He was still so worried about me! John was next to me. John was His closest friend, and he had become like a son to me.

He looked at me and said, “Woman, this is your son.” And then He looked at John and said, “This is your mother.” Jesus was giving my care to John, now that He could no longer take care of me.” From His cross, Jesus was still taking care of me!

I am so grateful for John. He has looked after my every need. But I love him because of how much he loved my son. We sit together and talk about how much we miss Him.

Your children always change you. And my Jesus changed me. But more than anyone will ever know: for my Jesus is my son, yes, but He is also my Lord, my Savior, and my God. I will live forever because of Him, and with Him. Let me tell you, it will be wonderful! I know. I know Jesus. It will be wonderful.

**PP#5:** “Live Like Jesus Is Dying.” “Jesus’ Sayings from the Cross”

“Jesus said to His mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’” -John 19:26b-27a

Easter is a month away. And as we get closer, we’re spending this time of Lent reflecting on why Jesus died on the cross. And so, we’re spending these weeks looking at the cross, and listening. While hanging on the cross, Jesus spoke seven times. Last week we learned just how difficult it was

to speak while on a cross. So these dying words Jesus spoke are very important. They're worth us listening to again. In those words we hear who Jesus is, what was going on when He died on the cross, and what it means for who we are.

Each week we're hearing the words like one of the people who was at the cross. Last week it was Simon of Cyrene. We heard Jesus' words of forgiveness, and in that we hear how we are forgiven, and how we are to be forgiving. This week it was Mary, Jesus' mother, and we hear how Jesus cared for her, and took care of her provision.

**PP#6:** *Image of a lot of people gathered around Jesus' cross: family, friends, enemies, Romans, etc.*

Who was there at the cross that day? Like I said, Simon from Cyrene, who carried Jesus' cross. His two sons, Alexander and Rufas. There were also the Roman soldiers, who were doing the crucifying. There were Jews who mocked Him, the money changers and merchants. Also some Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. There were the two other thieves, crucified along with Him. The Gospel of John tells us that he, John the Apostle, was there, and four women. One was Mary, Jesus' mother. She was the only person who had been with Jesus from the beginning to the end. And, like with all mothers, Jesus' pain was her pain. This was a terrible time for her, watching Him die.

Mary's sister was there, Salome, wife of Zebedee, the mother of James and John. Two more are named Mary: Mary Magdalene (out of whom Jesus cast seven demons; she never forgot how His love saved her!), and Mary, the wife of Clopas. Three Marys, and Salome, the sister of Jesus' mother. Salome is the mother of James and John, the same John who was also there at the cross. John and Jesus were first cousins, and also best friends.

**PP#7:** "Woman, here is your son!"

1. Jesus is God's son, but also still Mary's

Mary watched her son die. It's not the way she wanted things to go. Her whole life she had to give up what she wanted, and she had to learn to accept how God directed things. She had to try to live into the vision He was following, and she had to have great faith in God. She hurt a lot!

The cross confronted her with God's plan that she didn't want. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are also confronted with His cross, and we see God's plan, both for us and through us, that we don't necessarily want. Being a follower of Jesus does not mean that we are sheltered from the harshness of life. We are not spared any more than anyone else. But yet, because of our faith, we are carried through them, each and every time. The cross shows us that Jesus takes the most difficult path. His followers, even His mother, agree to go with Him.

But Jesus is there for her, even then. Here He is taking all the sins of humanity and earning salvation, in the midst of this cosmic, eternity-real drama, Jesus sees His mother and cares for her.

As her oldest son, particularly because she was almost certainly a widow, it was His job to oversee the family. He had moved His mother and siblings to Capernaum, to be with Him. There was no pension for her, no Social Security. Her family had to provide for her. Jesus never stopped fulfilling the Law, the fifth commandment said, "Honor your father and mother." As He is dying, He continues to make sure she is cared for.

In that culture, dying words were legally binding, like a will.

**PP#8:** "Woman, here is your son!"

1. Jesus is God's son, but also still Mary's
2. Jesus redefines family

Now, Jesus had other siblings who could have cared for her. Yet, instead, Jesus places His mother in the care of His cousin, His best friend, and closest disciple. Why? What is going on here? While hanging on the cross, Jesus defines family in a new way.

Family is not just based on blood, or kinship, or household. Jesus, Mary, and John shared a special binding in His love. They were family in faith and belief. This is a family not formed through Mary, but through Jesus. In fact, Mary was adopted into His family when she put her faith in Jesus, not as her son, but as her savior.

**PP#9:** “Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.” -Mark 3:35  
 “Jesus said, “I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life.” -Mark 10:29-31

That’s why early on, Jesus shocked His biological family and said, “Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.” Later, Jesus assures His followers that even if your family, parents, siblings, children, disown you because of your faith in Him, they will have a hundred times as many family among His followers. He creates new families, with a Father in heaven, bound together with a love Jesus demonstrates on the cross.

When you become a Christian, you become a part of a larger family. On the cross, Jesus creates a new family. It is all who do the will of God.

Look around you. This is your family! We are all in this together! That’s why in some churches, people call each other brother or sister. “Brother Louis, good to see you!” Let’s do that! Turn to your neighbors, ask them their names, and then call them brother or sister when you tell them your glad to see them. Give it a try.

[Pause.]

Good job, family! But we’re not just family in name. We have an interest in each other’s lives. We care about each other. We invest in each other. We support each other. You are not alone. You have a great big family, and we love you and we want to help you.

No matter where you are, when you meet another Christian, you are family. When our group traveling throughout Great Britain, went to a worship service in Wales, that church family cared enough about us to wait for us to arrive, when we got lost and were a bit late. They didn’t know us, but they didn’t want to start worship without us, because we were family. Wherever you go, you have a family that Jesus created on the cross!

Our lives may be different, but we are family. We bear the responsibility to help each other. John, the Bible says, from that day forward, took Mary into his home. I’m sure he wasn’t planning on that. It cost him, for sure. But it was because of his love for Jesus, that he accepted the responsibility of caring for her. Time, resources, hassle, the forming of a new relationship, at times I’m sure they didn’t get along. It changed his life. Beneath the cross new relationships are formed. New responsibilities are accepted, to care for those whom Jesus loves.

**PP#10:** “Woman, here is your son!”  
 1. Jesus is God’s son, but also still Mary’s  
 2. Jesus redefines family  
 3. Jesus’ family says, “I will!”

With your family here at church, we see God's family at work. Together we show this love and care to others. Recently we babysat other people's kids. Last Saturday we distributed food to 187 families. We also donated a pickup load of food to the food pantry down in White Bear. But we weren't done! The same day we also gave away free hot chocolate at the Polar Plunge, sharing the warmth of God's family. This past week, we made prayer shawls and quilts to give away. We housed preschoolers for HeadStart, Boy Scouts, NA, AARP Tax Aid. We taught other people's children about Jesus Wednesday night. We gave a loan to a guy whose car broke down, so he could get to work. We bought tires for a lady in need. We sent bags of food to Community Helping Hand. Yesterday we invited over a hundred people into our church home to take classes for child care. Today our mission team arrives home from Dulac, after a week of working on homes and helping people in need down in Louisiana. This family that you're a part of here at Forest Hills, we live out what Jesus said: "Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

Whom can Jesus entrust the poor, the widow, the needy to? He entrusts them to His disciples who love him. We need to be a people who say, "I will!" when it comes time to help the people God loves. I will! give up my own plans to do what it takes. I will! invite new people into my home to care for them. I will! visit my neighbor. I will! change my plans for today to help someone else. I will! show up at a way our church is gathering together to help. I will! see a need and do something to address it. When Jesus says to you, "Here is someone you can help," He's looking for a response of "I will!"

As Jesus was reconciling us to Him on the cross, His final words are for us to be reconciled, one to another, making a new family. That's what it means to be human, to be reconciled one to another.

Jesus spoke these words into His own family, not all that different from yours. There were strained relationships in that family. He probably had step-siblings, a widow mother, and His family didn't always like Him very much. It was complicated! But He loved them and spoke reconciliation, even from the cross.

When we gather as God's family here, we are practicing love, care, support, family. We need to make reconciliation with our immediate families, and with our church family. We become the agent of change. We say to Jesus, "I will!"

As we see and hear Jesus from the cross today, let's be a people of courageous faith. Let Mary's example of trust encourage ours. Let us commit to be that family God calls us to be. Let us say to Jesus, "I will!" And when we go home today, let's live differently.

Amen!