**Spoken From The Cross – Woman, behold your son!**

*John 19:25-27*

**Introduction**

1. It is not uncommon to find a mistreated, and suffering person turn inward to themselves in times of hardship.
	1. Pain is inflicted on the body, drawing attention to self.
	2. The mind wonders about, searching for answers as to why this is happening.
	3. **It takes great character, and awareness, to overcome this inclination to self-absorption in suffering.**
2. Despite the stress, pain, and mockery, Jesus’ attention did not dwell on His own suffering, or needs, but on the needs, and even suffering, of others.
3. Even with the spiritual redemptive work of God on His mind, and on the path before Him, Jesus recognized the human side of this horrid act, and how it affected those He loved.
	1. John’s gospel is written that we might believe that Jesus is God’s Son (**cf. John 20:31**).
	2. **However, His gospel by no means excludes the reality and importance of Jesus’ humanity (cf. John 1:14)**.
4. This shows greatly in the account of His suffering, and the words He uttered from the cross. 🡪
5. Sympathizer, and Comforter
6. Mary the mother of Jesus, and John, the disciple whom He loved.
	1. Mary the mother of Jesus
		1. **Psalm 127:3-5** – Children bless the lives of those who have them. This was true with Jesus and Mary 🡪
		2. **Luke 1:35-40** – When the angel told Mary about Jesus, she could not wait to share the news with her relative Elizabeth.
			1. **(v. 46-55)** – Mary shows her joy in her praise to God.
			2. **While she was excited for being a part of God’s scheme of redemption, and hoping in the messiah herself, she surely was excited to bear a child!**
		3. Angels appeared to shepherds and told them of Jesus. The shepherds then relayed the message to Joseph and Mary.
			1. **(2:17-19)** – Mary kept it close in her heart and pondered the message.
			2. **She no doubt was being strengthened in faith, but was also deeply concerned, and overwhelmed with joy about her new Son.**
		4. Her concern as a mother continued – **2:48-50** – She, as any mother would be, was deeply concerned not knowing where her child was.
			1. She raised Jesus – she cared for Him as a baby like any mother cares for a baby.
			2. She saw Him grow, and developed a motherly affinity for Him.
		5. **2:34-35** – In His fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus’ mother would suffer as well.
			1. **When Jesus would be rejected she would feel great pain**.
			2. **The suffering she would have to witness Him enduring would be as a sword piercing through her**!
	2. John, the disciple whom He loved.
		1. **John 19:26** – disciple whom He loved was John (**cf. 21:20, 24** – This disciple wrote this gospel.)
		2. This description shows his relationship with Jesus to be close, and special.
			1. As they sat in the upper room, the closest disciple to Jesus was John.
			2. **John 13:23** – All Jesus’ disciples were close to Jesus, sitting around the table in the upper room, but John shared a special relationship with Jesus.
		3. Thus we have Jesus’ mother, and closest companion standing near each other before Jesus as He hung on the cross 🡪
7. Behold your son! Behold your mother! **(cf. John 19:26-27)**
	1. What better support to be given Mary in the wake of Jesus death than His closest friend?
		1. **Behold your mother – placing responsibility upon John to take care of Mary**.
		2. Especially in this time of suffering.
	2. What better support to be given John in the wake of Jesus death than His own mother?
		1. **Behold your son – Jesus placing responsibility upon Mary to take care of John in this moment of suffering.**
		2. **To comfort Him as a mother can comfort a son**.
	3. **Jesus, although in horrendous pain, was not bothered with His own discomfort, but was concerned with the suffering of others** 🡪
8. Jesus cares about our struggles.
	1. **1 Timothy 2:5** – Jesus is our mediator. He is there to aid us in hardships.
	2. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – God is a comforter, and wishes for us to be comforted.
		1. **Philippians 4:6-7** – He wishes to ease our anxiety.
		2. **Romans 8:18, 26-27** – When we suffer, our spirit groans within us, and Jesus – the mediator – searches our hearts, and makes intercession for us.
9. **Although the spiritual struggles are most important, Jesus knows the toll this world can have on us physically. He cares for us in this way as well.**
10. Savior, Victor, and Hope Giver
11. WOMAN, behold your son!
	1. Why didn’t Jesus call her mother?
		1. Some suggest He wanted to avoid causing her any extra pain by reminding her that her SON was dying. (This could be a point to make, but is likely not what Jesus had in mind.)
		2. **Jesus wanted her to recognize her spiritual relationship with Him, not her physical relationship. (Calling her woman instead of mother.)**
			1. **John 2:1-4** – Wedding in Cana, Jesus did the same.
			2. The circumstances were different, yet the message the same. 🡪
12. Son of God > Son of Mary
	1. While His relationship with her as her physical Son was special, she needed to view Him as her savior.
		1. **Matthew 1:21-23** – He is God, sacrificing Himself for His creation.
		2. **Hebrews 2:14-18** – He was in the process of destroying the devil, and providing for Mary, and everyone who would believe, the same power to overcome death.
	2. This would, and should, bring her comfort.
		1. While Mary’s love for Jesus as a mother is emphasized, and even Jesus’ love for Mary as a Son, there is something far greater.
			1. **One of the only things which transcends a mother’s lover for her child, God’s love for His creation.**
			2. **John 15:13** – His death showed the greatest of love.
		2. Because He was indeed the Son of God, she should know He has power over death, and would overcome.
			1. **Romans 1:3-4** – He is the Son of God. (Confirmed by the resurrection.)
			2. **1 Corinthians 15:19-22** – He would overcome this tragedy and remain victorious, and would thus provide victory for His followers.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus aids us even in our physical struggles.
2. He is our provider, and our confidant. He does not like when we suffer, although it may be necessary, but He is always there to hear our cry, and aid us in our suffering.
3. **He is our Redeemer, our Savior, our God. He has provided for our most needful state of existence, and continues to do so through His word.**