

Title: *Son of Mary, Son of Man*

No. 201520

Venue: Tyrrell Baptist Church

Date: May 20, 2015

Scripture: John 2v1-11

Call to Worship: Proverbs 31v10-31

Main Idea: Mother's Day; Jesus, Son of Man and of Mary

(All Scripture is from the English Standard Version unless otherwise indicated)

Call to Worship

Proverbs 31

- ¹⁰ *An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.*
¹¹ *The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.*
¹² *She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.*
¹³ *She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.*
¹⁴ *She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.*
¹⁵ *She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.*
¹⁶ *She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.*
¹⁷ *She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.*
¹⁸ *She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.*
¹⁹ *She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.*
²⁰ *She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*
²¹ *She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.*
²² *She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.*
²³ *Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.*
²⁴ *She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.*
²⁵ *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.*
²⁶ *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*
²⁷ *She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*
²⁸ *Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:*
²⁹ *"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."*
³⁰ *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*
³¹ *Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.*

(prior to Scripture reading) It's Mother's Day again

When I was in seminary and attending a church in Toronto, the pastor would give me at least one opportunity to preach every year. Sometimes it was more than once but I can't remember how often. The first occasion that he offered, well, it was going to be on Mother's Day. The next year, in the Spring, he offered me another opportunity that I recall. Well, it happened to be again on Mother's Day. The next year, he offered me another opportunity to preach and it was . . . guess. Yes, it was yet again on Mother's Day. There was a pattern developing. I didn't have a problem with it. I wonder what it was about Mother's Day that he didn't want to preach.

Mother's Day has become a North American tradition that was started in the 1800s. When we lived in England, we found that they called it Mothering Sunday. It is tied to the Lenten season and so, this year, it was celebrated on March 15.

When we've been in pastoral ministry, our practice has been to celebrate this as a Woman's Day. We have been influenced by godly women who have not had children of their own but who have shown all the fine qualities and care that we would expect to see in loving mothers.

At a Sunday worship service, we, of course, want to keep our focus on God and His Word. Yet, we also want to celebrate the very special role that God has given to women.

While we started a series on the Gospel of Mark last Sunday, today I want to go into an account of the life of our Lord from another Gospel. Our reading is from the second chapter of John's Gospel. As I mentioned last Sunday, John's approach in his Gospel is different from the other three Gospel accounts and this story is found only in John's writing (John 2).

- ¹ *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.*
- ² *Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.*
- ³ *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."*
- ⁴ *And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."*
- ⁵ *His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*
- ⁶ *Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.*
- ⁷ *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.*
- ⁸ *And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.*
- ⁹ *When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom*
- ¹⁰ *and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."*
- ¹¹ *This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*
- ¹² *After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.*

Son of God, son of Mary

Last Sunday, as we started into the Gospel of Mark, we read these words and heard other testimonies that Jesus is the Son of God. Still, as we progress through Mark's account, we will hear Jesus referring to Himself as the "Son of Man." He did not deny the title or identity of being the Son of God; yet, He did not promote Himself by using it. Other voices would testify that He is indeed the Son of God.

Can you imagine how challenging it would have been to be part of Jesus' family? When we get to Mark chapter 3, we'll see a passage that shows how Jesus redefines His family.

As much as an honour it was to have given birth to the Son of God, it wasn't an easy role for Mary.

We have that song, "Mary Did You Know" that is often connected with celebrations in the Christmas season.

Mary Did You Know (Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene)

*Mary did you know that your baby boy will some day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.*

Oh Mary did you know

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM."*

I wouldn't hold up the life of Mary as an example to other women. It wouldn't be fair. She demonstrates personal qualities that are worthy and worth considering and we'll look at those later. But her role and experiences were truly unique.

First we hear of her is that she is visited by an angel and told that, although she is a virgin, she will give birth. The one born to her will be called holy—the Son of God.

A few days after the birth of Jesus, Simeon's prophecy at the Temple will reaffirm the special character of her child. Later, there will be visits by wise men from the east bearing gifts fit for a king.

Then there is need to flee to Egypt when King Herod goes on a rampage having male babies slaughtered.

Returning back to Nazareth, she is raising more children, now fathered by Joseph in a household where your first born is a "model child."

Then, there is that festival in Jerusalem when they realize that Jesus is missing on the trip back home. Eventually she finds Him in the Temple precincts talking theology with the teachers there. Mary says, *"Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."* (Luke 2v48) And the young Jesus responds, *"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"*

At some time before the account that we read about the wedding feast in Cana, it appears that Joseph passed away. Is Jesus supporting the household through a carpentry practice? Quite possibly.

We really don't have much information about Jesus between the time of His birth and the time that He enters His public ministry around age 30. So, we have to speculate and use some imagination about His family life and about Mary's experience.

When did Mary come to realize that her first-born would head off to have an itinerant ministry as a teacher, preacher and healer? Probably by the time of this wedding feast. Jesus was just calling some men to become His disciples to join Him. Mary must have realized life and her relationship with her son were about to change in a big way.

The wedding feast in Cana

Our reading from John 2 shows Mary and Jesus and some of His disciples attending the wedding feast. This was likely the wedding of some relatives.

John is the only Gospel writer to describe the turning of water into wine (2v11). *This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.*

I don't know whether it was due to poor planning or whether the wedding guests were celebrating a bit too hard, but they ran out of wine. Wedding feasts could last for days so it seems wise to be ready with a lot of food and beverage.

The way the passage reads, it may be that Mary was the primary guest from their family and that may explain why she showed particular concern that the wine had run out.

If you have read this passage, you might have thought it to be a strange exchange.

Mary: *Jesus, they have run out of wine*

Jesus: *Madam, what does that have to do with me? It's not my time yet.*

Mary: [no response to Jesus] *Whatever He tells you to do, do it.*

Was this the type of conversations that Jesus was having with His mother, Mary, in those days or was this the beginning of a transition in their relationship? When we get back to the Gospel of Mark and reach the end of chapter 3, we'll see another strange dialogue. But that is one we'll look at on another Sunday.

John could have written this account and simply skipped the conversation of Mary and Jesus. Hypothetically, it could have been written:

"Mary and Jesus and His disciples were at a wedding feast and they ran out of wine so Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with water."

But Mary gets involved like a mother looking after the details of a big meal and I love that line that Mary speaks to the servants:

"Do whatever he tells you."

It wasn't her event. It wasn't her household. Those servants were not hers to direct. What boldness and what confidence! Stop and think about it.

Lynne and I think much alike on most matters. I think that she is a pretty good counsellor with her twenty years of experience and her track record. Think of someone you know in whom you have confidence. Now imagine if I said, *“Whatever Lynne says to you do it.”* Actually, I wouldn’t make that statement. *“Whatever Lynne says to you do it.”* I know I make mistakes and she makes mistakes. A statement like that is giving a person complete authority over all things and it’s giving authority even before we know what the situation is.

So here is Mary saying to the servants *“Do whatever he tells you.”*

It’s not as though they were at a wedding feast last month and Jesus turned water into wine once before. According to John, this was the first of the signs and this takes place within a week of the baptism and the voice of God announcing, *“This is my Son.”*

A household with Jesus

It’s hard to imagine what it would have been like to have a son like Jesus grow up in your household. Scripture describes Jesus as being without sin. He must have been a delight to Mary but an annoyance to his brothers who probably got into trouble. I wonder if Mary ever said, *“Why can’t you be like your brother, Jesus?”* Scripture indicates that Jesus’ brothers did not initially believe in Him (John 7v5), possibly not even until after His resurrection.

Eventually, both James and Jude, brothers of Jesus, would become leaders in the church and writers of the two letters that bear their names. For them, it must have been some kind of struggle in the growing awareness that their brother was not just another man living and working in Nazareth.

For us, with the whole testimony of Scripture, it should be that growing awareness that Jesus, as the Son of God, is fully divine and as the son of Mary and so, Son of Man, is fully human. And I tell you, it is a struggle to get a handle on that. I believe it to be true but cannot figure it out logically—not half God, half man; but fully God, fully human.

Anyway, Jesus hears from His mother and performs a miracle of provision. He will do something like this in feeding the multitudes—5,000 and then 4,000 from a scant supply. We’ll see those miracles later in our study of Mark.

How would we describe Mary?

For now, let us summarize some observations about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was chosen of God with a special mission

She was devoted to God.

She was obedient to do God's will.

She was trusting in God through difficult and even embarrassing situations.

She believed in angels and miracles.

She was calm in her spirit

She was patient.

She was bold when it came to matters of faith.

As close as Mary might have wanted to be to her son, she must have understood from the beginning that the path of His life would not be ordinary or easy.

One more point about Mary. She left us with a definitive statement that should guide our lives everyday:

"Do whatever he tells you."

On Mother's Day, we are supposed to give gifts to mothers. But her words are a mother's gift to followers of Christ.

"Do whatever he tells you."

Jesus' siblings

Evidence for this is found at Matthew 13v55-56 and Mark 6v3. Jesus eventually had four brothers (James, Joses, Simon, and Jude) and at least two sisters. His sisters aren't named, and we don't even know how many there were.

Family disapproves of Jesus' ministry

Mark 3v21, they said that he was "out of his mind," and some of them attempted to "take charge of him" and bring him home.

Matthew 12v46-50 indicates that he refused to talk to his mother and brothers when they tracked him down and tried to see him. And John 7v5 says "even his own brothers did not believe in him."

They became followers

Acts 1v14 says that Mary and all four brothers later joined the Nazarenes, the original community of believers who lived in Jerusalem after Jesus departed.

Luke 1v36, Mary was a relative of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

Luke 1v39-56 says that Mary went to live at Elizabeth's home in Judea after she became pregnant with Jesus and stayed there for about three months. Some scholars have suggested that Mary used Elizabeth's home as a refuge while waiting for Joseph to decide whether to accept her as his wife.

Activity of Jesus' brothers

The oldest brother of Jesus was named James. He became a very important leader in the early church, and is the named author of the New Testament Epistle of James. Because he was very pious, and followed the Jewish religious laws very strictly, he was called James the Just (or James the Righteous). He was condemned to death and executed in Jerusalem in 62 AD. Another brother of Jesus, called Jude, is the author of the New Testament Epistle of Jude.