



THE BLESSING

INTRODUCTION

The scriptures call us to honor our parents and take care of those in our community (including widows, single mothers, and families dealing with illness). On the cross, Jesus looks down and takes care of His earthly mother's immediate and future needs. He honors and respects Mary because she has been a such blessing in His life.

DISCUSSION

What was it like growing up with your mother, HOW WAS it a blessing (and because we are all human) when was it a burden?

EXPLANATION

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

- What does this say about how to raise your children?
- How does leading by example secure your legacy?

APPLICATION

Are you planning/preparing for your parent's future needs?

What does that look like for you in this stage in your life? In their life?

If you are a mother, are you a blessing or a burden on your children?

How are you these things?

Where in your child's life do you need to step up and confidently bring something to their attention?

MISSION

Are you aware of the needs of the people around you? In your neighborhood, at your work, around your city... who is it that needs help?

In what ways can you provide help as an individual?

In what ways can you provide help as a Community Group?

How can you start to be more aware on a daily basis of the needs around you?



THE BLESSING

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| John 19:26-27 | Proverbs 22:6 |
| Exodus 20:12 | Proverbs 29:1 |
| Proverbs 17:25 | Luke 2:41-42 |
| John 2:1-5 | Luke 1:30, 46-49 |
| John 17:1 | 1 Timothy 5:3 |

MOTHER'S DAY & SCRIPTURE VERSES

THE BLESSING

John 19:26-27 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” 27 and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Jesus, who is God, came to this earth, lived a sinless life, was crucified & raised three days later. Easter is a time that we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from death, but to get there, Jesus had to go through crucifixion. In today’s text, Jesus is waiting for death to come. There are three main people in this story: *Jesus, Mary & John the Disciple*:

Jesus: Mary is in her late 40’s/50’s, probably widowed. She is witnessing her first-born go through hell, and there is nothing she can do for Him. You would expect to see a mother trying to take care of her son’s needs, but You see Jesus taking care of His mother’s needs instead (**both her immediate needs as well as her future needs**).

As children, we are called to Honor & Respect our parents (Exodus 20:12). This doesn’t mean you have to do everything they want/tell you, but it does mean you do the honorable thing and make sure their best intentions are at heart.

Mary: How do you raise kids who will do what is right? If you want your children to bless you, **You must first be a Blessing, not a Burden.**

John 2:1-5 You find the story of Jesus’ first public miracle. He’s attending a wedding with a couple of newly picked disciples and His mother: then the wine runs out. Mary comes to Jesus and informs Him. Wine is a big deal, because it’s a small community, and weddings were enormous occasions that lasted for days, and this ‘simple’ oversight could disgrace the newly married couple for the rest of their lives.

It’s not Mary’s party. She’s not the Wedding Planner. It’s not her problem. But she knows 2 things the other guests do not know:

- 1) She knows the wine has run out
- 2) She knows that her son can solve the problem.

She was being a blessing – to both the wedding party & to Jesus.

Here’s the Blessing:

- She raises a good issue, while acknowledging His independence
- She is confident in His abilities
- She has healthy expectations

Be a Blessing, not a Burden – and you do that by LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Seek to develop in your kids a heart for God from a young age. *That happens through seeking a Heart for God in your own life.*

Your children need to see:

- You in your Bible, praying, dealing with people and situations with a Godly attitude and focus.
- How you deal with your husband – how you argue, how you love each other.
- How you make decisions about finances, responsibilities, work.
- Serving God and serving others.

Barna Research says that “Adults essentially carry out the beliefs they embraced when they were young” **THIS IS CALLED LEGACY**

Mary & Joseph live their lives on display for their kids to see what is right. (Luke 2:41-42). Mary Worships God, Not Herself. In taking care of other people’s needs, she models her faith by what she does

If you have worshipped God and have led by example by displaying Godly character, then you can feel free to speak into your child’s life & have healthy expectations – that is a BLESSING!

John: The point isn’t who Jesus called, it is that He called. Jesus loves us all as His family, we are called to be a family to each other.

Sometimes, we are called to honor our physical family, other times we are called to honor others. Scripture continually speaks of a duty to care for the widows. Today this includes single moms, military families where one spouse is deployed, and otherwise oppressed members in our community.

It Feels like a burden... but It’s a Great Calling

