



MARY: AT THE CROSS A SON BECOMES THE SAVIOR

INTRODUCTION

Mary was a woman who marveled and pondered the words of people who became a part of the miraculous events surrounding the virgin birth of her Son, Jesus. She even took to heart her Son's words spoken to her as He matured from a precious child into manhood. Mary must have had many moments of quiet, thoughtful meditations, as *He [Jesus] increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man* (Luke 2:51, 52).

At the appointed time, she gazed upon the Son she loved as He hung agonizingly on a cross. He was hardly recognizable as a man because of the cruel, violent beatings He had suffered from those who despised Him (Isaiah 53:2, Psalm 22). Much of what she had pondered over the years most likely flooded her memory. Surely her heart was pierced in pain as she beheld her Son on the cross. Perhaps she remembered the prophetic¹ words spoken by Simeon . . . *yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also . . .* (Luke 2:35).

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

¹ prophetic: God's truth foretold by holy men of God who spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Names Given to Mary

Virgin	<p><i>Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son . . .</i> (Matthew 1:23).</p> <p><i>Virgin</i> in Greek means unknown or a maiden, an unmarried daughter. <i>Virgin</i> in Hebrew is <i>almah</i>, a lass (as veiled or private): damsel, maid; from the root word <i>elem</i>: something kept out of sight. Mary was the fulfillment of the virgin whom God had promised would bring forth the Savior (Isaiah 7:14).</p>
Highly Favored	<p><i>And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured . . .</i> (Luke 1:28a).</p> <p><i>Favoured</i> in Greek means to grace, to endue with special honor. God showed His favor towards Mary by choosing her to be the mother of Christ the Savior of the world.</p>
Blessed	<p><i>. . . blessed art thou among women</i> (Luke 1:28b).</p> <p><i>Blessed</i> in Greek means to speak well of (religiously); to bless (thank or to invoke a benediction upon, prosper), praise. As a special honor to Mary, God blessed her above all women.</p>
Handmaiden	<p><i>For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden . . .</i> (Luke 1:48).</p> <p><i>Handmaiden</i> in Greek means female slave. Mary regarded herself as a handmaiden, a servant of God.</p>
Mary	<p><i>. . . when as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost²</i> (Matthew 1:18).</p> <p><i>Mary's</i> name is of Hebrew origin, it comes from the root word <i>Marah</i> meaning bitterness. We will learn that later in Mary's life she experienced the bitter waters of sorrow. Her name also signifies exalted or favored one.</p>
Mother	<p><i>. . . but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart</i> (Luke 2:51b).</p>

SECTION 1 - Jesus as a Baby

In 758 BC, Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' birth, *Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel.* The fulfillment is recorded in the New Testament book of Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke Chapter 2.

READ Luke 2:1-40.

1. Within the given passages of Scripture, FIND and SUMMARIZE the prophetic words spoken about Jesus by:

The Angels (vv. 1-14) _____

² Holy Ghost: NKJV reads Holy Spirit. The third person of the Godhead: Father, Son, Spirit of God.

The Shepherds (vv. 15-20) _____

Simeon (vv. 21-35) _____

Anna (vv. 36-39) _____

LOOK DEEPER

REREAD Luke 2:1-40 and WRITE down the different names that refer to Jesus. _____

Which of His names impacted you the most? Why? _____

PERSONAL

What did Mary do with all the truths she heard about her baby (Luke 2:19, 33)? _____

Why do you think she did this? _____

How can you store up God's truths in your heart? _____

2. Mary's baby became a young boy. As He grew, what does Luke tell us about Him (Luke 2:40)?

SECTION 2 - Jesus as a Boy

READ Luke 2:41-52.

1. What happened when Jesus was twelve years old (vv. 41, 42)? _____

2. When His parents returned home, where did He remain (v. 43)? _____

3. Where did they seek Him at first (v. 44)? _____

It was customary to travel to Jerusalem for the Passover in large groups. It was quite possible for a child to stay with other relatives within the group. Therefore the parents would not be concerned about the safety or whereabouts of their child.

4. Where did they seek Him next (vv. 45, 46a)? _____

How long had He been missing? _____

5. Where was He found and what was He doing (v. 46b)? _____

6. How did the hearers react to Jesus (v. 47)? _____

7. How did His parents react when they found Him (v. 48a)? _____

PERSONAL

What amazes you about children? _____

8. What did His mother Mary say to Him (v. 48b)? _____

PERSONAL

How have you related to Mary's reaction? _____

9. What was Jesus' reply (v. 49)? _____

There are times in our Christian walk when we might not fully understand all of Jesus' words; but we can go forward and obey what we do comprehend by faith, knowing and trusting that He will give us further understanding as we grow in Him.

10. Again what did Mary do with all the words of Jesus (vv. 50, 51)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

MATCH the Scriptures with the statement to learn what to do with God's Word.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Psalm 119:11 | a. stands in awe of it |
| _____ Psalm 119:15 | b. delight in and not forget it |
| _____ Psalm 119:16 | c. rejoices in it |
| _____ Psalm 119:97 | d. meditate on it |
| _____ Psalm 119:161 | e. hide it in your heart |
| _____ Psalm 119:162 | f. love and meditate all the day |

SECTION 3 - Jesus as a Man

Jesus at the age of thirty began His three and a half-year ministry.

READ John 2:1-11.

1. Where was Jesus and His mother (vv. 1, 2)? _____
2. What was the problem (v. 3)? _____
Who did Mary go to for help? _____

PERSONAL

Mary knew who Jesus was and trusted Him with the circumstance at hand. What one truth do you know about Jesus that causes you to trust Him?

How does Proverbs 3:5, 6 relate to your daily relationship with Him? _____

3. What did Jesus say in response (John 2:4)? _____

Jesus showed no disrespect when he addresses His mother as *woman* instead of mother. This was the polite way to address women (John 4:21, 20:13, Matthew 15:28, Luke 13:12). His public ministry had begun, and with the Cross before Him, He began to distance her as His mother, and draw her into a close and intimate relationship with Him as the Son of God, doing the Father’s business (Luke 2:49).

4. What does Mary instruct the servants to do (John 2:5)? _____

PERSONAL

Would you say that Mary’s words *whatsoever He saith unto you, do it*, could be applied to a specific area of your life? What is Jesus asking you to do today?

5. How does Jesus solve the problem with the wine (John 2:6-8)? _____

6. What did the governor notice and what did the servants know (v. 9, 10)? _____

7. Why is this wedding significant to Jesus? To His disciples (v. 11)? _____

PERSONAL

Mary had a meditative heart. What might she have reflected on as she traveled home? _____

SECTION 4 - Mary at the Foot of the Cross

Jesus grew in popularity with the multitudes of people. The lame walked, the blind had their sight restored, and the lepers were healed. But Satan who deceived many, deceived the chief priests who set out to kill Jesus. Judas, one of His own disciples, betrayed Him and Jesus was crucified. It was in this hour when most had left Him that His mother stood in reverence at the foot of His cross, as her son, the Son of God, became her Savior.

READ John Chapter 19.

1. What did Pilate do to Jesus (v. 1)? _____³

2. What did the soldiers do next to Jesus (vv. 2, 3)? _____

What did they call Jesus? _____

In calling Jesus, the King of The Jews, the soldiers mocked Him. In reality they spoke the truth as Jesus is . . . *the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords* . . . (I Timothy 6:15).

PERSONAL

Who or what is king (passion, dominating force) in your life? _____

3. For what reason did Pilate bring Jesus forth to the people (John 19:4-6a)? _____

4. What did the crowd demand to be done to Jesus (vv. 6b, 7)? _____

Why? _____

5. What did the Father say concerning Jesus at His baptism (Luke 3:21, 22)? _____

6. Now LOOK at Isaiah 53:3. What does this say about Jesus? _____

³ scourged: to whip or lash, to cause suffering.

7. DESCRIBE the emotional state of Pilate (John 19:8). _____

8. How did Jesus respond to Pilate's questions (John 19:9, compare Isaiah 53:7)? _____

9. Who really held the power to crucify or release Jesus (vv. 10, 11)? _____
 EXPLAIN who was in control here. _____

10. What did Pilate seek to do at this point (vv. 12-15)? _____

11. DESCRIBE the crowd. What did they yell out? What was the crowd determined to do (v. 15)? _____

12. What happened to Jesus (vv. 16-18)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

As they crucified Jesus, what was done with His garments (Matthew 27:35 and Psalm 22:18)?

Was Jesus crucified alone (Matthew 27:38, Isaiah 53:12)? _____

What happened to one of these thieves (Luke 23:39-43)? _____

DESCRIBE what the common people said as they passed by (Matt. 27:39, 40). _____

How about the chief priests, scribes and elders (vv. 41-43)? _____

What did Jesus cry out in Matthew 27:45, 46? See also Psalm 22:1. _____

DESCRIBE the emotional stress that Jesus was enduring (Psalm 22:7-14). _____

DESCRIBE the physical pain and suffering Jesus endured (Psalm 22:14-17). _____

PERSONAL

Think about Mary. How do you imagine she felt looking at her Son hanging on the cross? He was beaten, bleeding, cold, naked, and barely recognizable; she could not help Him. Imagine hearing the insulting words of all the people, who had so recently been following Him.

How would you feel? _____

Remembering all the words of the Angel Gabriel, Simeon, the wise men, and then the words of her Son, Jesus, what do you think Mary understood?

How can you be encouraged through suffering?

Romans 8:18 _____

I Peter 4:19 _____

If you are suffering today, will you take encouragement in the fact that Jesus also suffered, and is in control of your pain? He wants to be glorified through it.

13. READ John 19:25-27. Unable to help Jesus, Mary endured with Him all His pain. How did she do this?

How did Jesus address her? _____

What did He do for her in His dying moment? _____

14. After this good-bye what did Jesus ask for (John 19:28, 29)? _____

What was He given? _____

What does Psalm 22:15 say? _____

15. What were Jesus' last words (John 19:30)? _____

What did Jesus then do? _____

16. What two men buried Jesus (vv. 38, 39)? _____

17. Where was Jesus laid (vv. 40-42, compare with Isaiah 53:9)? _____

18. Why did God allow His Son to suffer the death of the cross (Isaiah 53:10-12)? _____

Mary surrendered her Son into the eternal will of His and her heavenly Father that the world might have everlasting life through His death.

SECTION 5 - The Resurrection

READ Acts 1:12-14 and Acts 2:1-4.

1. On the day of Pentecost⁴ where was Mary, Jesus' mother (Acts 1:13, 14)? _____

Who was with her? _____

What were they doing? _____

2. What was the atmosphere of the people (Acts 2:1)? _____

3. What happened to the people (vv. 2-4)? _____

⁴ day of Pentecost: the day when the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father in Jesus' name to fill the hearts of believers and empower them for serving God (John 15:26, 27).

4. How do Christ's words in John 14:26, 27 reveal that in time she would finally understand all that had happened to her Son?

The work of her Son and Savior could not be fully understood until that day at Pentecost. After that day, she came to know in her heart that her son was Jesus, her Lord and Savior who had saved her from her sins.

PERSONAL

Has Jesus saved you from your sins? What is holding you back? How will you let go today and begin a new resurrected life in the Savior, Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

(Matthew 1:21).

Mary was chosen by God for the special mission of bringing into the world, the Savior of mankind. From Christ's conception, through the manger, His ministry, the cross, and to Pentecost, she surrendered her life in total obedience to the task. Therefore the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were ever present in her life, guiding, comforting and empowering her to fulfill her call to the utmost. What task has God called you to do that the world may know Jesus? Will you surrender to Him today?

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