

THIRD LAST WORD

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John 19:25-27 (NIV)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "***Dear woman, here is your son,***" and to the disciple, "***Here is your mother.***" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Intro:

- One of the biggest questions when I got this message is: "Why this?" Bakit ako pa na walang nanay? Bakit sa akin pa? Parang ang hirap icontextualize?

BACKGROUND

- Roman Soldiers are in the cross at that time out of duty – "call of duty" (napag-utusan)
 - These 5 people were there out of devotion – "love."
 - Interestingly, there are three "Marys"
 - o Mary – means bitterness
 - o **In Jewish times, names determine the destiny of the son/daughter**
 - o Example: Barrabas – "Son of Consolation/Exhortation", Peter – "Son of Thunder"
 - o Examples here in church – (insert joke here)
 - Even if there are five persons there, Jesus only focused on two: His mother, and his apostle John.
 - In the Jewish culture as well, the last words or commands of a dying man is equivalent to a "last will and testament." So we will focus on this act by Jesus at the cross.
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Jesus to Mary: "Dear woman, here is your son."

Why dear woman? Not out of respect – see John 2 (Wedding in Cana – he also addressed Mary as woman.)

This is special to the Gospel of John, because in contrast with Matthew, Mark and Luke (Synoptic Gospels) which focuses on Jesus' humanity, the Gospel of John focuses on Jesus' deity. Nevertheless, the address "Dear woman" is a sign of respect!

To Mary, the cross now is a **place of reward**.

Here, Mary now is a widow and his brothers are still unbelievers.

After all the hardships in nurturing Jesus in his youth – Jesus never forgets her mother.

Giving Mary to his "best choice" apostle would be a reward for Mary. Why not his brothers? It is because his brothers are still unbelievers!

Jesus wants the best for his mother!

1. JESUS CARES FOR OUR FUTURE.

- He will never leave us!
- Jer. 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you, plans to *prosper you* and not to harm you, *plans to give you HOPE and FUTURE.*
- Even in the cross, Jesus cared for his mother's future – so do in our lives!
- We are placed in a FELLOWSHIP! This is the essence.
- After saving us, Jesus had in his mind that we must be in a Christian community. He cares for us!
- He plans every detail of our life – our future – our companions, our partners in life, everything.
- Jesus plans that we are in a Christian community: as he planned for Mary to be with John rather than his unbeliever brothers at that time.
- 2 Cor. 6:14 – Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can we have with darkness?
- We are SECURE in a Christian community. That's the importance.