

PORTRAIT OF THE GREATEST MOTHER EVER

(Selected Scriptures)

Put yourself in Mary's place. Your eldest son never sins, never lies, never makes foolish mistakes or wrong decisions – in other words, He is perfect. You also have this growing realization that what an elderly prophet said would someday come true, but you don't know how or when: “. . . a sword will pierce your own soul” (Luke 2:35). Mary probably knew it meant her son would cause her heart to break one day.

So if you ever ask yourself, “did Mary go through the same struggles and victories I have come through or will go through?” – you'll see that you have a lot more in common than you think. By God's grace, every Christian mother can become like her:

1. **Mary and Jesus at the Wedding of Cana: John 2:1-12**

- This must have been very hard for Mary. Like any other person, she needed to see Jesus as the promised Messiah, who takes away the sins of the world. Neither she nor anyone else dare presume to approach him on an “inside track”. For no-one could this lesson have been more difficult than for Mary; perhaps that was part of the sword that would pierce her soul. For this we should honor her all the more!

In telling the servants, *Do whatever he tells you*, Mary shakes off the gentle rebuke and exemplifies the best kind of persevering faith. Mary approached Jesus as his mother, and was reproached; but now she responds as a believer, and her faith is honored. She still does not know what he would do; but she has committed the matter to him, and trusts him.

- How do you take it when the seasons of life make you realize that the precious boy or girl entrusted to you has started flapping his wings, has started taking on his destiny in life? Do what Mary did – respond as a believer, turn to God in faith and entrust the situation into His hands.

2. **Jesus and Mary at a house in Capernaum: Mark 3:20-21; 31-35**

- His family came to restrain Him and bring Him under their care, supposedly for His own good. They could only explain His unconventional lifestyle, with its willingness for others always to impose on Him, by saying He had lost His mind. Mary went with them probably due to concerns about what would happen – or perhaps, like John the Baptist, she too had come to doubt (Matthew 11:2-3).

Mary's silence to Jesus' public statement speaks volumes – it is safe to assume that she agreed with what Jesus publicly said. She was publicly recognized as his mother and could have contradicted him then and there. But Jesus was not rejecting His earthly family (John 19:26, 27). Rather, He was emphasizing the supremacy and eternality of spiritual relationships (Matthew). After all, even His own family needed Him as Savior (John 7:5).

- Have you ever misinterpreted your own children? Have you ever doubted their decisions, dreams, and plans only to find out that they were right? How do we respond when we as parents, sometimes need to stand corrected? Do a Mary then – if your child is right, support what they are doing, silently or otherwise.

3. Jesus and Mary at the Cross: John 19:25-27

- This was the final thrust of the “sword” that would pierce her soul and break her heart. With the mocking laughter and ridicule thrown at her supposed “failure of a son” ringing in her ears, Mary would have to deal with her doubts and pain as she saw her son die a seemingly futile and senseless death.

Did Mary ever stop believing in her son? She may have struggled, but she never stopped. What we know for sure is that she was a charter member of the great 120 who started the very first church at Pentecost! (Acts 1:13-14).

- How do you handle it when your beloved child is in pain? When the world brands them (or they think themselves) as failures? Do a Mary then: Never stop believing in your child. Manage your own pain. Because if you keep believing in the same God that Mary did, He always comes through in this life, and best of all, delivers gloriously in the next.

Final thoughts:

Mary is not to be worshipped, but she should not be ignored either. She was a woman of great faith, of great knowledge of God's Word and of total submission to God's will whatever the cost. She knew what it was to see her precious Son assert his independence from her as he became a man. She saw his spiritual relationships take precedence over his human family. And she was able to let him go. She experienced the agony of his death and the rapture of his resurrection. She became his faithful follower and must have been a great encouragement to the early church. What a Mother!