

Behold Your Mother

Gospel of John, Part LXVII

John 19:25-27

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I. Introduction

II. Behold your mother!

A. Setting (25 cf. Mt 27:56-57; Mk 15:40)

B. Providing for Mary (26-27 cf. 7:5)

III. Honor your father and mother

A. Honor of God is first (Ex 20:1-11; Mt 6:33; 10:37; 22:38)

"The first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength" (Mt 22:38). Though Jesus' decision to sacrifice His life exposes His mother to potential impoverishment, Jesus does not waver. He does not choose _____ over His Heavenly Father. *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."*

B. Honor of Parents is second (Ex 20:12; Dt 21:18ff; Mal 4:6; Mt 22:39)

The second greatest commandment is *"to love one's neighbor as oneself"* (Mt 22:39). At the head of this summary of the second half of the Ten Commandments stands honor to parents: *"You shall honor your father and your mother, that it may go well with you and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you"* (Ex 20:12). Honor of parents is one of the principle ways in which we show our love for God.

When the people of Israel were preparing to enter into the promised land, the Levites were to pronounce these curses on the disobedient.

"And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' 'And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!' 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' 'And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' (Dt 27:14-16)

Foundational to Israel's identity as God's elect people is to be a steadfast _____ to God first and to parents a close second. *"For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him"* (Lev 20:9).

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
 - 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
 - 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

IV. Do not despise your mother (cf. Pr 23:22)

A. Who is providing for whom?

The Lutheran commentator R.C.H. Lenski writes (page 1299):

“What has Roman Catholicism made of this word of the dying Savior? Like Pius IX., Jesus, too, we are told, by this word of his makes Mary the patroness of all Christians who are here represented by the disciple John. It was not Mary who needed John, but John and with him and in him all other Christians who needed Mary. One of these Mary worshipers writes that ‘in the person of John Mary receives all Christians as her children. And this capacity of Mary entitles us to the right and the trust, that we place all our interest in her hands.’ What a reversal of the facts!”

B. Show piety at home (1 Tim 5:3-4, 8, 16 cp. Prov 13:22; 2 Cor 12:14)

If your father or mother is unable to support themselves then it is your responsibility to do so. You are to use your wealth to assist your parents. Paul writes to Timothy:

“Honor widows who are really widows [those who have no one else to relieve them]. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God... But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever... If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are truly widows.” (1 Tim 5:3-4, 8, 16)

If your elderly parents or grandparents need financial support, then don’t search around in your heart and soul to discern God’s _____ – God has already revealed it here in His Word: your duty is to care for them.

C. Spiritual Violations

1. Disordered loves (Lk 9:59-60; 14:26)

First, we can use our love of _____ to excuse our disobedience to God. Then [Jesus] said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God” (Lk 9:59-60). Loyalty to God precedes loyalty to parents.

2. Distorted loves – Corban (Mk 7:9-13)

Second, we can use our professed “love” for _____ to cover our failure to honor our parents. This was pervasive among the “religious” people in Jesus’ day.

He said to them, “[You’re very skilled at rejecting] the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban’—’ (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.” (Mk 7:9-13)

V. Conclusion