



# WEEKLY SERMON

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**Sunday** February 18, 2024

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**Message #3** Seven Words of Christ at Calvary

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**Text:** John 19:16-30 (26-27)

This **Weekly SERMON** Devotional letter will cover two areas.

**NUMBER 1. Our Human Family:** A human family is a miracle that is planned by God, to bring happiness to man and praise to God. A successful family does not just happen, but must be built in a lifetime. Here is a list of requirements for a happy and successful family.

**First: It Must Grow in a Climate of Love.** In John 13:34 Jesus said, "**A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**" Learn to love each member of your family and you will develop a great Godly family. Parent, never forget how precious your children are, and bring them up as items of great value. If you are a child with a Christian father and mother, you are rich beyond measure.

**Second: Obedience is Vital for Success.** In Colossians 3:20 we read, "**Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**" Our children must be taught to obey without question. They must learn while young to obey their parents, and really concentrate on obedience in their teens. To be disobedient to family authority is to be disobedient to God. A disciplined home will not just happen. Parents must hold the reins and guide it prayerfully.

**Third: It Takes Labor.** In Lamentations 3:27 we read, "**It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.**" Nothing in life comes easily. Each family member should have responsibilities at home. Beware of allowing a sloppy home and teach your kids to take care of their earthly possessions and willingly help in home duties.

**Fourth: It Deserves Honor.** In Exodus 20:12 we read, "**Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**" Younger family members should always help the older ones with warmth and the utmost respect. If you belong to a great Christian family, then honor your parents and preserve your good family name.

**Fifth: Your Faith must be Cherished.** In Genesis 18:19 we read, "**For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment.**" God knew that Abraham would lead his family in a lifetime of God honoring days. Parents, work together teaching your children the way of your faith. True faith must be shown by absolute faith in our Creator.

**Sixth: Give it Your Attention.** In Proverbs 1:8 we read, "**My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother...**" Try to remember the great things your parents taught you, and pass them on to the next generation.

**Seventh: Dwell in Wisdom.** In Proverbs 1:7 we read, "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**" And in Proverbs 10:1 we read, "**A wise son**

**maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."** If your whole family follows in the will of God, nothing on earth is a bigger accomplishment. Fathers must be the leaders of your own family.

**Eighth: Be an Attractive Example.** In I Timothy 4:12 we read, "**Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers; in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**" Your family may be the only Bible your neighborhood reads. To others you should show honest actions on the job and a holy trust in God.

In every area, work to develop a Godly family. As a family, you owe each other a lifetime of pleasing God. This will bring great eternal reward in your heavenly home.

Final thought: **"Teaching children TO COUNT is fine, but teaching them WHAT COUNTS is best."**

## **NUMBER 2. "Minimize what you don't have and Maximize what you do have!"**

When Christians believe that what they have is great, God doesn't mind giving them what they want, because God knows that if they do not get what they want they will still be happy with the great things they already have. The problem that most Christians have is to **MINIMIZE** what they have and **MAXIMIZE** what they don't have. They begin thinking **"I have a small God. I have a not so good spouse, I attend a so-so church; I have an okay book - the Bible. I live in a menial country. I have an alright salvation."**

The reason some members leave churches is because they never magnify how good it was to be part of a great church. Instead, they minimize and fault-find and criticize.

The reason why some couples break up and divorce is they never magnify the good in each other. Instead, they minimize and fault-find and criticize.

When a Christian stops **MAGNIFYING** what he **DOES NOT HAVE**, stops **MINIMIZING** what he **DOES HAVE**, and starts **MAGNIFYING** what he **DOES HAVE**, he shuts the door to temptation. It is like going back to the Garden of Eden and choosing the life that God gives instead of the knowledge of something unknown.

The root cause of all temptation goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. When the Christian wants to magnify what he doesn't have and minimize what he does have; he will lose what he does have and forfeit what he doesn't have. On the other hand if one chooses life, then he gains wisdom and more wisdom and more wisdom, and he leans on God and becomes so content.

Some Final Thoughts:

**Testing is an opportunity to prove that there is nothing I need outside of what God provides, and each test purges me of those appetites which tells me I need more.**

**If in order to be happy, a Christian has to have something that God has not provided, then he is opening the door to be tempted by all sorts of evil."**

**If God is withholding something from a Christian, it is only to enrich that Christian's life and make him a better person."**

In His Amazing Grace  
*Pastor David Miklas*

# “Woman, Behold thy Son! ...Behold thy Mother!”

**INTRODUCTION:** At the Place of the Skull we call Golgotha, the Son of God endured six hours of pain before He died. Think of it, six excruciating hours of pain. During those hours when His body hung suspended on the cross, held in place by iron spikes through His hands and feet, Jesus never once lost control of His emotions, never showed signs of bitterness, never cursed. Furthermore, He thought not of Himself, but of others.

First, He thought of the very ones who were crucifying Him, saying over and over again, “**Father, Forgive them; for they know not what they do.**”

Then He looked across to the thief hanging beside Him and, responding to the man’s pleas for salvation, promised, “**Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise.**”

These were the first two of the **SEVEN** statements made by our Lord at Calvary from 9:00 AM in the morning to 3:00 PM in the afternoon. In this sermon we focus our attention on the third statement made by Christ at Calvary found in the text of John 19:16-18, 23-30.

“Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. (17) And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: (18) Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.” (23) Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. (24) They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. (25) Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. (26) When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! (27) Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. (28) After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. (29) Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

In verses 26-27 we observe the most touching and tender of all the scenes that took place at Calvary and hear the words of affection, “**Woman, behold thy son! ...Behold thy mother!**”

He looks down at the crowd, and seeing His mother says, “**Mother, behold thy son John.**”

He then spots John and as far as we know only John stood at the cross, because all the others had fled. He says, “**John I have a mission, I have some unfinished business for you, I need for you to be a substitute for me, please take care of my mother.**”

Now from this passage, let’s focus our attention on three truths that will be easy to remember because they each begin with the letter “C.”

**The CONNECTION:** Again in verses 23-24 we read,

“Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. (24) They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.”

Jesus is hanging naked on the cross. His clothing has been stripped from Him by the Roman soldiers. It was their right, legally, to take the garments. But since there were four soldiers and five garments, they faced a dilemma.

A Jewish man in Jesus' day typically wore five pieces of clothing:

**A head piece, some type of turban or cloth about the head,  
Sandals, a type of walking shoe,  
An undergarment,  
An outer robe hanging loosely usually all the way down to the ankles, and  
A belt or sash called a girdle which held up the outer garment.**

Four articles of clothing the soldiers took and divided amongst themselves. There was a fifth piece of clothing, the outer garment called the “chiton” (ke-tone) that draped loosely over the shoulders and hung almost to the knees. Apparently the “chiton” Jesus wore had been woven in one piece; it was a seamless garment.

Usually the mother of a Jewish boy made the “chiton” for him before he stepped out into the real world on his own. When he reached manhood his mother presented him with the “chiton.” I strongly suspect, Mary gave Jesus His “chiton.”

Now the soldiers have to decide who gets this fifth piece of clothing. They did not want to tear it into four pieces, thus making it useless. So they cast lots. By throwing dice, they gambled for it. And as they did so, note the flow of the narrative. As the soldiers gambled for the “chiton,” Jesus looked down from the cross and saw His mother.

**Why now? She's been there all along, watching and weeping.  
Why hasn't he acknowledged her or spoken to her before now?**

Could it be because of the seamless robe? His other garments were insignificant. These were just paraphernalia that had kept Him comfortable during His earthly ministry. But when they touched this garment, they touched something very near to His heart, the garment made for Him by His mother. So it stands to reason that, when they began talking and haggling over the robe, He would look at His mother.

Please notice again the opening words of verse 25, “**Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother...**” What a courageous woman was this beloved mother. When Jesus saw His mother, she was not a crumpled heap. She was “**standing.**” Imagine what it must have been like for His mother to watch her son brutalized and tortured and hung on a cross? Think of it, and try to reconstruct in your mind the remorse she must have had.

**His disciples, all except one, had DESERTED Him.  
His friends had FORSAKEN Him.  
His nation had DESPISED him.**

But there stands Mary at the foot of the cross. Someone said, “**If Christ was the Man of Sorrows, was Mary not the Woman of Sorrows?**” Jesus was dying the most awful death one could die. How grief-stricken Mary must have felt as she saw her own Son hanging on a cross with:

**THORNS in His brow and  
NAILS in His hands and  
LACERATIONS in His back, and**

she is not permitted to even take a cloth and wipe away the blood that runs down into His eyes!

**She sees His lips swollen and parched with thirst.  
She hears His cry for water.  
She watches as the soldiers offer Him vinegar, but**

she is not permitted to take a damp cloth and moisten His burning lips!

**Can you imagine how her heart must have ached?**

**Can you imagine how she must have been torn to see her own Son dying on a cross?**

Simeon had said to Mary when she had brought Jesus to the Temple as a baby, in Luke 2:34-35, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel... “Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also...” Could it be that Mary, given the greatest of all privileges, was also given the greatest of all sorrows? Now Mary recalls the words of Simeon, “Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also...” as she watches Him die on the cross.

**The CROWDS are mocking Him.**

**The THIEVES are taunting Him.**

**The PRIESTS are jeering Him.**

**The SOLIDERS are callous and indifferent to Him.**

And there is His mother beholding the horrible mockery. She does not faint from the scene. She does not turn away from the spectacle. She does not run away from the sight. **SHE STANDS.** She stood by the cross of Jesus, with a marvelous fortitude of courage.

Now in this day and age, do you and I have the courage to take a stand for Christ? Remember Jesus is not popular even today. The crowds still mock Him. The crowds still curse Him, taking his name in vain.

Christianity might seem to be popular, but remember when it is, it is not true Christianity. For those who express the name of Christ will face persecution.

Do today’s Christians have the courage to stand and give testimony for Him?

Romans 1:16 tells us, “... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”

I Corinthians 16:13 reads, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

Can we sing with boldness that grand old hymn of the faith? Can we live by its message?

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is conquered  
And Christ is Lord indeed.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
The trumpet call obey;  
Forth to the mighty conflict,  
In this His glorious day.  
Ye that are men now serve Him,  
Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger  
And strength to strength oppose.**

**The CHARGE:** As Mary stood there, Jesus said to her, “Woman, behold thy Son.” Then he turns to the disciple whom he loved and said, “Behold thy mother!” It was a firm and clear charge, yet full of tenderness.

What Jesus says, in effect, is, “John, I charge you to adopt this woman as your mother. You are

**to take her into your home and into your life. That means you are to love her and care for her as I would, if I were to continue to live. She is to become as precious and dear to you as she has been to Me."**

I can understand Jesus' first statement as He continually cries, **"Father forgive them."** This is in harmony with what He is **DOING**. He is dying for sinners, dying to pay the sin debt. It seems right that He should pray, **"Father, forgive them."**

I can understand His second statement at the cross when He says, **"Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."** The whole purpose of His death was to get sinners into Paradise.

But His third statement at the cross does not seem to harmonize with what He is doing. Why is He concerned with seeing that His mother is cared for as long as she lives on this earth? Two additional questions come to mind here. First, why didn't Jesus ask His own brothers to take care of Mary, their mother? And second, where was Mary's husband, Joseph?

In answer to the question "Where was Joseph?" there is every indication from the argument of silence, that Joseph (who is not mentioned after Luke 2:53) was not alive when Jesus was crucified.

As to the other members of Jesus family, the Gospel of Matthew verifies the fact that Mary had other children besides the Lord Jesus, and he even included some of their names in Matthew 13:53-56.

**"And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. (54) And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? (55) Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? (56) And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? (57) And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. (58) And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."**

The account mentions four brothers as well as His sisters. So obviously Mary had other children. Why didn't He send Mary to His own brothers? I believe the indictment of the people in Jesus' hometown found in verse 58 includes His own brothers and sisters, **"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."** Even John 7:5 confirms they had rejected Him, **"For neither did his brethren believe in him."**

Throughout His earthly ministry, right up to the point of His death, His brothers did not believe in or support Him. His mother did, but not His brothers. So it stands to reason, the whole responsibility of the family was then thrown on the shoulders of the oldest son, in this case, Jesus. He chooses to put her in the care of one who would not only love her and care for her, as his own mother, but also one who loved Him and believed in Him. In this case that would be John, one of His closest followers.

Now from the pulpit of the cross, Jesus was able to preach a sermon on the fifth commandment, **"Honor thy father and thy mother..."** Remember:

**The first four commandments sum up man's duty toward God.  
The last six commandments sum up man's duty toward man.  
The first of the last six states, "Honor thy father and thy mother..."**

At the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ honored the first commandment with promise.

It is sad when children fail to realize the responsibility God has put upon them to **CARE** for their parents. The responsibility for our parents, if they are living and need help, is

**OUR** responsibility. Jesus was teaching this concept by exhibiting His **CONCERN and AFFECTION** for His mother.

Jesus was performing the mightiest work of history, providing for our eternal redemption. Yet He did not forget His earthly relationships. This is obviously a lesson for us, In the midst of all our hustle and bustle, and even while in the service of the Lord, we have a responsibility for our earthly relationships. At the closing moments of His life, in the midst of His indescribable suffering, Jesus took care of His mother. Through His own pain, He had her welfare and protection near to His heart to the very last.

**The CHALLENGE:** Out of these tender words of **AFFECTION** from the cross, two wonderful truths can be found.

**First:** I see these not only as words of **AFFECTION** but also as words of **COMPASSION**. Jesus was a man of sorrows, but he was also a compassionate Saviour. This was an attribute of His character.

Psalm 86:15 says, "**But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion and grace, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.**"

Matthew 9:36 we read of Jesus, "**But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.**"

Five times in the gospel we read that Jesus was moved with compassion. Truly, Jesus was full of compassion. What characterized the life of our Lord more than any other single thing was His focus on "**OTHERS.**"

He lived and died for **OTHERS.**

His motto was **OTHERS.**

His activities were built around **OTHERS.**

**Others, Lord, Yes others. Let this my motto be.  
Help me to live for others, That I may live like thee.**

**He raised the dead as with the widow's son and Lazarus.**

**He healed the sick, restored sight to the blind and made the lame to walk.**

**He saw the multitudes, without a shepherd, who needed a redemptive experience, and had compassion on them.**

**He saw the multitudes who were hungry, and He fed them.**

**He saw the sinner and reached out to him as He did with the woman at the well, the woman taken in adultery, and the little crooked tax collector, Zachaeus.**

All of those just mentioned found, in the Lord Jesus Christ, a compassionate Saviour. Yes, as we read in Jude 22 "**Compassion makes a difference.**"

**Compassion is the nurse given to mankind.**

**Compassion cares for the helpless.**

**Compassion mothers the orphan.**

**Compassion feeds the hungry, and clothes the cold.**

**Compassion helps the helpless and raises the fallen.**

**Compassion shines upon the suffering and relives it.**

**Compassion shines upon sorrow and shares it.**

Ladies and gentlemen, if we should ever get to the place in our lives and in this church

Where we memorize the entire Bible;

Where we dot every **fundamental "I"** and cross every **fundamental "T"**;

Where we find out exactly who the Antichrist is and know by heart the end time events;

Where we win all the battles we have to win against sin;

Where we just sound off in preaching Hell Fire and Brimstone;

But lose our tears for the lost and for the needs of others, we have totally lost our right to exist! Yes, **"Compassion makes a difference!"**

**Look all around you, find someone in need, Help somebody today!  
Though it be little, a neighborly deed, Help somebody today!**

**Many are waiting for a kind, loving word, Help somebody today!  
Thou hast a message, O let it be heard, Help somebody today!  
Many have burdens too heavy to bear, Help somebody today!  
Grief is the portion of some everywhere, Help somebody today!**

**Some are discouraged and weary in heart, Help somebody today!  
Someone the journey to Heaven should start, Help somebody today!**

My friends, we can't die a death to save man from his sins. But we can reach out in compassion to become Christ-like by helping someone today.

**Second:** I see Jesus had some unfinished work yet that needed to be done, a mission remaining. Jesus is on the cross held there by iron spikes through His hands and feet. Here on the cross, Jesus dying for the sins of every man, looked down and saw those He loved, and again with His great heart of compassion:

Said to His mother, **"Mother, John will take care of you."**

And He looks at John and says, **"John I have a mission, some unfinished business for you. I need for you to be a substitute for me, please take care of my mother."**

Jesus had some unfinished work for John to do, and my friends, God almighty has some unfinished work for all of us to do.

**Jesus died on the cross to pay man's sin debt.**

**Jesus suffered an eternity in Hell so that none of us would ever have to spend one moment, let alone an eternity, in Hell.**

**Jesus paid the price of redemption, with His own precious blood.**

Now He says to us in Mark 16:15, **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."** There is one mission remaining, **"Go into the entire world and preach the gospel to your generation, to everyone in your area. Don't stop until everyone knows that I LOVE them, DIED for them, and PAID their sin debt at Calvary."**

**Christ has no hands, but our hands, to do His work today;  
He has no feet, but our feet, to lead men in His way.  
He has no tongue, but our tongue, to tell them how He died;  
He had no help, but our help, to bring men to His side.**

Oh, what a challenge and a privilege we have to fulfill Christ's remaining mission until He comes again. Amen!!

As we draw this message to a close, please notice Jesus said, **"Woman, BEHOLD thy Son."** What a word, **"BEHOLD."** In John 1:29 it was John the Baptist who said when he first saw Jesus, **"BEHOLD, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."** That Lamb of God hung on the cross to take away the sin of the world, your sin and my sin. O' my friends, if you have yet to believe on the finished work of Christ for your sins at Calvary, why not in this very moment of time look unto Jesus and believe? **"Behold"** Him with a simple, **"Lord Jesus I believe you died for my sins, and right here and now have mercy upon me and save me for thy sake."** The author of the hymn, **"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"** wrote:

**Upon the Cross of Jesus, My eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One, Who suffered there for me;**



**And from my smitten heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess  
The wonders of His glorious love, And my unworthiness.**

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If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon on the Third Words of Christ at Calvary, **“Woman Behold Thy Son, Son Behold Thy Mother”** then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”**

Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know. Please send an e-mail to, [pdmikBBM@aol.com](mailto:pdmikBBM@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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