

Seven Sayings of the Cross:

#3: **Woman, behold your son. . . . Son, behold your mother.**

Introduction

Please open your Bibles to **John 19:25**. Pastor Henry, thank you so much for the opportunity to speak. I am truly honored to be here. I was asked to briefly introduce myself, so here goes: I am Jim Fleming; believer in Jesus Christ, husband to Julie, member at Stuart Heights Baptist Church, and father to Anna Grace and Caleb. That's enough about me—let's talk about Jesus.

Read: John 19:25-27

John 19:25-27: 25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw [participle; better translated "seeing"] **his mother and the disciple whom he loved** [*agapao*; imperfect tense; better translated "kept on loving"] **standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold** [imperative], **your son!"** [In English, this almost sounds rude, but there's no rudeness in the original—Jesus was being clear] **27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold** [imperative], **your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.**

I'd like to talk about how Jesus teaches about relationships with His look, His love, and His life.

Explain: His Look, His Love, His Life

First, His Look

We notice in His final hours and minutes, He was seeing others—His focus was on others. In His greatest hour of pain and anguish, He was looking out for others because relationships matter to Jesus. Say it with me: "Relationships matter to Jesus."

Jesus was looking for his friends and family. And He saw them and their faithfulness!

He was looking around to see who was there. Being fully God, He already knew who was there, but what a comfort it must have been to those nearby to see the approving gaze of their Savior. He was looking for them.

It is comforting to be seen—to have someone say, "I see you—I acknowledge you."

My Jesus was looking—and He liked what He saw at the foot of the cross.

And He is looking still. Be found faithful, church. Don't quit—keep looking like Jesus looked.

Next, His Love

Why were these people there? It was dangerous and embarrassing to be associated with a criminal convicted and sentenced to death—especially death on a cross. The word 'cross' was not used in polite society at the time—judges would decree, "Hang him on the unlucky tree," to avoid saying the word 'cross.' You didn't want to be associated with a cross kind of criminal.

So why were these people there? They were there for the same reason Jesus was there—love. They loved Jesus—and Jesus loved them. They loved Jesus enough to stick around to the end (or what they thought was the end). They loved Him enough to endure. **Was it scary and dangerous to be there?** Certainly. But **perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)**. Jesus loved those at the foot of the cross—because (say it with me), "Relationships matter to Jesus."

And He is loving still. Be found faithful, church. Don't quit—keep loving like Jesus loved.

Finally, His Life

Jesus said and did many things while on the Earth. Many of those things were to fulfill prophecy concerning the Messiah. Jesus shows us with His life that He is fulfilling prophecy. And while this third saying is not explicitly called out as fulfilling Messianic prophecy, Jesus (the physical Word of God) obeys Scripture (the living written Word of God) by honoring His mother.

This command to honor our father and mother is given in **Exodus 20:12**. The Hebrew word for honor means heavy. It's a substantive word. It's got some weight. It's the opposite of vanity and lightness. It's a serious word. This command to honor applies to our lives and to our language.

What does Jesus do on the cross? He honors His mother Mary by making sure she is taken care of after He is gone. **Who does Jesus ask?** He asks John—the disciple whom Jesus loved.

So, while Jesus is laying down His life, He is obeying Scripture. Oh, what a Savior!

Jesus did not leave them with silver or gold, but He left them with each other—with relationships. He left them with each other and He has left us with each other and with the Holy Spirit—because (say it with me), "Relationships matter to Jesus."

Conclusion

Jesus is looking still. He is loving still. And He is living still. Be found faithful, church. Don't quit.

Jesus left us here to look after each other, to love each other, and to live with each other.

Let's be found faithful.