

# Lessons From the Mother of Our Lord

Happy Mother's Day! May 10, 2015

BIG IDEA—we shouldn't worship Mary, the mother of Jesus, but we should appreciate her unique role and example for godly women today. She is the most amazing woman in all of Scripture!

1. Serving without **reservation** and **humbly** submitting to God's will (Luke 1:38 and 48)

<sup>38</sup> *Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

<sup>48</sup> *for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.*

2. Understanding the big picture of God's **story** in Scripture (Luke 1:46-55)

<sup>54</sup> *He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful*

<sup>55</sup> *to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."*

3. Glorifying God and rejoicing in the **gospel**; knowing God is active in salvation (Luke 1:46)

<sup>46</sup> *And Mary said:*

*"My soul glorifies the Lord*

<sup>47</sup> *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

4. Pondering, marveling, treasuring her unique **relationship** with Jesus (Luke 2:19, 33, 51)

<sup>19</sup> *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

<sup>33</sup> *The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.*

<sup>51</sup> *But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

to return to over and over  
to be in **awe**  
to **guard** carefully

5. Obeying the Word of God, not limited by material **poverty** (Luke 2:21-24, 39, 41)

<sup>21</sup> *On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. <sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."*

<sup>39</sup> *When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.*

<sup>41</sup> *Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.*

6. Living as a **refugee** in a foreign land, facing **hardship** and danger (Matthew 2:13-14)

<sup>13</sup> *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."*

<sup>14</sup> *So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,*

7. Bringing up her boy Jesus, the Son of God, with normal, **motherly** concern (Luke 2:48-50)

<sup>48</sup> *When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."*

<sup>49</sup> *"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"* <sup>50</sup> *But they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

8. Learning the priority of spiritual relationships, even over family **ties** (Mark 3:31-34; also Luke 11:27-28)

<sup>31</sup> *Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.* <sup>32</sup> *A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."*

<sup>33</sup> *"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.*

<sup>34</sup> *Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"* <sup>35</sup> *Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

9. **Expecting** a miracle without **demanding** one (John 2:3-5)

<sup>3</sup> *When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."*

<sup>4</sup> *"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."*

<sup>5</sup> *His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

10. Staying **close** as her Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is dying for the sin of the world (John 19:25-27)

<sup>25</sup> *Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.* <sup>26</sup> *When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"* <sup>27</sup> *and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

11. **Praying** and **watching** with others for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14)

<sup>14</sup> *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

## *Life Group Homework*

1. Some churches have minimized or even ignored the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in their teaching and preaching. Does she deserve any special respect?
2. Which one of the biblical references to Mary did you find most encouraging? Explain.
3. Based on Luke 1:48 should we refer to her as "Blessed Mary" to show respect for her unique role as the mother of our Lord? Why or why not?
4. Spend some time praying for mothers (yourself, your own mother, others) and their critical role.

NOTE: The Roman Catholic church has added to these biblical references by teaching that Mary, the mother of Jesus was herself born without sin; that she remained a perpetual virgin after the birth of Jesus; that she is the mother of all Christians, i.e. the mother of the church; that she did not die an earthly death but was physically in body and soul "assumed" into heaven; and, that she intercedes (prays for) Christians alongside of Christ, acting as a mediator for us and partner in providing redemption. Roman Catholic theology recognizes that these church teachings are not found in the Bible.