

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

May 9, 2004

“This Is Still the Lord’s Day”

Larry Ray Hafley

Let no one think that my dear Mom was not pleased and grateful for being remembered on Mother's Day. For a couple of weeks after Mother's Day, she would proudly display the cards that my brothers and I had sent her (She also received Mother's Day cards from those whom she had loved and nurtured and who thought of her as a “second Mother.”). Of course, I always called her, thanked her, and praised her. She was humbly grateful for the good wishes and expressions of love. However, after a few minutes, she would remind me that, “This is still the Lord's day,” and that we ought to be serving, honoring and praising Him, “because this is just another day invented by men.”

That was my Mom. And this is my first Mother's Day without her. Unashamedly, I confess that Mother's Day cards and displays in the stores have brought tears to my eyes. This year, I cannot look for the “perfect card,” the one that truly and tenderly expresses the love and appreciation I have for her. This year, I cannot tell her how much she meant to me and how much I loved her. But that will not stop me from honoring her. And I shall do it in the way that she would want me to. I shall do it by remembering that, “This is still the Lord's day.”

Yes, this is the day upon which we remember and “show the Lord's death till he come”(1 Cor. 11:23-26). This is the day upon which He rose from the dead (Lk. 24:1, 13, 21, 29, 46). Accordingly, as the Spirit has directed us, we shall “break bread,” and also “lay by in store” upon this day, his day, “the first day of the week”(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Thank you, Mom, for the reminder.

“You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth. By You I have been upheld from birth; You are He who took me out of my mother’s womb. My praise shall be continually of You.”—Psalm 71:5-6

Jesus and Mothers

Troy Nicholson

Jesus interacted with many different mothers during His time upon the earth. Let’s notice three specific occasions.

In Luke 7:11-15 we read where “Jesus went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd went along with Him.” As this large crowd was going into the city, another large crowd was coming out with a dead man, “the only son of his mother; and she was a widow.” “When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her,” or as another version says, “His heart went out to her.” She was weeping, as probably any mother would be, but Jesus told her there was no need to weep. “Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.”

In Matthew 15:21-28 “a Canaanite woman...came to him, crying out, ‘Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.’” Jesus told her that He was only sent to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” and that “it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” But she persisted and replied, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table,” at which point He commended her for her great faith and said “Let it be to you as you desire.’ And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”

While on the cross Jesus turned His attention to His own mother. “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, he said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home” (John 19:26-27).

What do we learn from these episodes in Jesus' life? We learn the need to have compassion on widows and do what we can to comfort them. James says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, ...(James 1:27). We learn that those of other races and nationalities can have faith in the Lord and be accepted by Him. As Peter told Cornelius, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him"(Acts 10:34-35). We learn the importance of making sure the needs of our own mothers are met. As Paul tells Timothy, "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them" (1 Timothy 5:8, 16).

On this day and every day, may we follow the example of Jesus and the teaching of the Scriptures by showing the proper honor and respect for all mothers.

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).