

God's eternal plan was being fulfilled and as Jesus said:

**John 10:17-18 (NIV 84)**

**17 THE REASON MY FATHER LOVES ME IS THAT I LAY DOWN MY LIFE - ONLY TO TAKE IT UP AGAIN. 18 NO ONE TAKES IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MY OWN ACCORD. I HAVE AUTHORITY TO LAY IT DOWN AND AUTHORITY TO TAKE IT UP AGAIN. THIS COMMAND I RECEIVED FROM MY FATHER."**

Is there more to this 3<sup>rd</sup> Word from the Cross? Oh, yes! ☺

**II. JESUS' LOVE FOR OUR FAMILY**

Here we see Jesus who is dying in intense agony, gasping for each breath and instead of centering in on His own pain, looks to see His mother there by His side in His death! The mom he grew up with who was there through it all. A mother whose arms had lovingly held this dear child of hers in her protective and comforting love. Jesus sees her at the foot of the Cross, heartbroken and weeping, wondering what has happened to her son of whom she knew was so very special indeed! She is a widow, we know her husband Joseph had passed away by this time and now she will also be known as the mother of that crucified criminal, Jesus! Life was looking pretty bleak at this point. We know that she had other children who were not around at this point.

**John 7:25 (NIV 84)**

25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"

**Mark 3:21 (NIV 84)**

21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Jesus is again setting an example in caring for our parents! It is one of the 10 commandments.

**Exodus 20:12 (NIV 84)**

**12 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, SO THAT YOU**

## **MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU.**

Jesus who had experienced misunderstanding from His family in life is able to look and see that His mother is taken care of. His cousin John is there and He calls him to take care of His mom! 😊

### **John 19:27 (NIV 84)**

**27 AND TO THE DISCIPLE, "HERE IS YOUR MOTHER." FROM THAT TIME ON, THIS DISCIPLE TOOK HER INTO HIS HOME.**

**Bringing this home:** The power of God's love calls us to forgive those who are closest to us and maybe have hurt us! We need to pray, forgive, love and reach out to our families! Many times it is our family that causes us the most pain! As Jesus warned:

### **Matthew 10:21-22, 34-39 (NIV 84)**

**21** "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. **22** All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. **34** "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - **36** a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' **37** "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; **38** and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

As Jesus shares how many times it is those closest to us that cause us the most harm we must not get a bad attitude about our family! This brings another point to consider.

## **III. JESUS' CALL TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR FAMILY**

It is clear our commitment to Jesus is primary but we must not throw away our responsibility to love, care and help our family! **NO WE ARE NOT**

**TO BE ENABLERS BUT WE MUST HAVE JESUS' HEART IN DEALING WITH OUR FAMILIES!** The Apostle Paul brings this clearly out:

**1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV 84)**

8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

So how do we reconcile our primary commitment to Jesus with responsibility for our families? **SOMETIMES IT IS WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY!** We never know how people will respond to us but we must ask God for wisdom and for loving patience. Putting God first enables us to get our priorities in line! As Jesus taught:

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV 84)**

**33 BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL.**

**Conclusion:** Here at the end of Jesus' earthly life we see in Him – not centering in on His own pain – but in helping His mom in her pain to get through this awful time! Oh, the example He sets for us is so amazing! As Paul shares with the Philippians:

**Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV 84)**

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name

that is above every name, ***10*** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ***11*** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.