

Lord, what about him?

10.5.2020 Clare

It is Mother's Day. I have a friend in Tasmania – who's mum Ellery had 9 children. He was the last one. He said, tha, they stopped having children at 9 – they had reached **perfection**. Today, we remember that mum's treat each child lovingly, but some children need to have more oversight and direction and encouragement. Others are very well behaved, when mum and are around – but can be a bit sneaky. So thankfully the LORD treats each of us, in the best possible way. A sharp word, or an encouraging Word.

It is Mother's Day. My message today is not about a mum, but about 2 sons of 2 mums, both followers of Jesus, who's ***mum's both probably worried about them.***

1. One is **Peter** who boasted a bit, but made a lot of mistakes.
2. The other is **John** – who was close to Jesus - when Jesus was dying on the cross.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus **stood his mother**, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, '**Dear woman, here is your son,**' ²⁷ and to the disciple, '**Here is your mother.**' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." (John 19:25-27)

Psalm 31:15a "My times are in your hand". I was at a funeral, listening to the preacher when this was brought to our attention. I'd never noticed it. Today, is the day to be kind to your mum, and tomorrow. Many people take their mum's for granted. Treasure your mum!

'I am the way'—said Jesus (John 14:6)

1. The Risen Jesus is the way to the Father, the truth of the Father, and the life of the Father.
2. Suffering, with purpose, is **the way**.
3. You can't make a genuine entrance into the kingdom of God, and the age to come, apart from **the way**.
4. And you can't be deliberately in life now, if you don't know **the way**.
5. The Risen Jesus is **the way**.
6. Karl Marx and the Chinese Communist Party are not **the way**.
7. Bill Gates, Twiggy Forrest and the appallingly rich Capitalists are not **the way**, for the human race to go.
8. The AFL is not **the way**. (Or the NRL. Or the PGA or Tennis Australia).
9. Northwards to Darwin (is just towards warmth and the sun) It is not **the way** to life.
10. A green program—without Jesus Christ is not **the way**. It is right to care for creation.
11. Hopelessness, and suicide is not **the way**.
12. Fear of speaking up, in Jesus name, is not the way.
13. Islam is not **the way**.

²³ *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also* (1John 2:23).

14. Chaplains conceding that all religions are equal—is not **the way**.
15. Being **gracious in the name of Jesus, is of course**, a very important part of **the way**.

⁶ *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone* (Colossians 4:6).

A Galilean fisherman by the name of Simon Peter, was one of the first called to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:19). Peter's call 'Follow me' is restated by Jesus in John 21:19, 22.

1. Peter had 3 years as a close disciple, learning from Jesus.
2. Eleven other men, & many women learned closely from Jesus (Luke 8:1-3; 10:41-42).
1Peter, 2Andrew, 3James, 4John 'sons of thunder', 5Matthew, 6Phillip, 7Thomas, 8Thaddeus, 9Bartholomew, 10Simon the Cananean, 11James the son of Alphaeus, 12Judas Iscariot,
3. Women: 1Mary Magdalene, 2Joanna – the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, 3Susanna, 4Mary and 5Martha-sisters of Lazarus, 6Mary the mother of James the younger, and Salome, 7Mary the mother of James and John.
NOTE: Mary (or Miriam) was the most popular Jewish woman's name at the time.
4. Peter was a leader (and James & John), but an impetuous, erratic person.
5. Jesus rebuked Peter, in the Garden of Gethsemane, for taking his sword, and cutting off the right ear of the High Priest's slave (John 18:10).
6. Right one moment, satanically wrong, opposed to Jesus the next (Matthew 16:16-23).
7. Professing to be the most loyal, denying Jesus 3 times.
8. After the resurrection of Jesus, Peter's manner of life was still—at times—somewhat uncertain, and erratic.
9. Paul rebuked Peter openly when he came to Antioch, for his deadly compromise of the gospel (Galatians 2:11).

APPLICATION NUMBER ONE

- We are all created to live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of the Living God. We are created to be *contingent* upon our Maker.
- Adam and Eve walked with the Lord in the garden 'at the time of the evening breeze' (Genesis 3:8). So too, our lives are created to be in communion with God, talking and walking with God as Father, in and by His Spirit—through the reconciling, mediating life of Jesus, the Son.
- Maybe, like Peter, we need that corrective word. [*I feel I am more that way*]
- Maybe we are calmer, as was John, and are regularly following the way of Jesus.

WHAT I NOTICED IN THE STORY

After his bitter failure in three denials, Peter needed to be forgiven, and restored. Jesus came and personally effected this by calling him afresh three times, to reaffirm his love for Jesus (John 21:15-19), and his willingness to proclaim Jesus as **the way**. This would involve suffering, in ministry. And suffering in death. He was called yet again, '**Follow me**'.

JESUS STILL SPOKE SHARPLY TO THE LEAD DISCIPLE

To our/my mild shock, (or comfort) even in the presence of the Risen Jesus, Peter was still easily distracted. He curiously asked Jesus about John's ministry: '**Lord what about him?**'

The answer given by Jesus can appear obscure: '*If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me*' (John 21:22)

LESSON:

But it serves as a final reminder to us all.

- Stop being *so busy* about other people's matters, that we *neglect our own souls*, focus, and our duty.

His *commandments are not burdensome* (1John 4:3).

His Word keeps us *free indeed* (John 8).

LORD WHAT ABOUT HIM? ***Don't worry – no need for more sideways glances***

Lord of our ways, speak firmly to us too, that we may negate distractions, and concentrate upon your good will, and walk in your good way, and testify to your love, your way.

In your grace, and by grace, O Lord.

Trevor Faggotter