

“...Woman, behold your son!”
The Exemplary Earthly Son

John 19:25-27

I. The significance of the Lord Jesus’ care for His earthly mother

- A. (theological) It manifests the infinite love the Lord Jesus has for His heavenly Father!! It also manifests the infinite love the Lord Jesus has for those elect sinners whom the Father had given to Him to redeem!
1. It is God the Father’s revealed will that all people Honor their father and their mother (the 5th of the 10 commandments) – this is part of the moral law of God that was written by the finger of God on the tablets of stone (Ex.20:12; 31:18) and on hearts (Rom.2:15). It has not been repealed (Eph.6:1, 2)!
 2. It was God the Father’s revealed will that Christ Jesus accomplish and secure eternal redemption (salvation) for the elect, those whom the Father had chosen and given to Christ Jesus to redeem (Jn.17:1-4)
 - a. IF the Lord Jesus had failed to care for His earthly mother by saying what He said while on the cross, THEN He would have sinned by omitting to perform the duty that He owed, as a son, to His earthly mother.
 - b. That ONE sin of omission would have marred Christ’s perfect obedience, making it impossible for the elect to be justified by faith – to be accepted as righteous in God’s sight only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to them
- B. (practical) It manifests the high regard the Lord Jesus had for His earthly mother as a result of the law of God, particularly the 5th Commandment
1. The 5th Commandment stated – Exod.20:2; Eph.6:1-3; Col.3:20
 - o This obligation has not been repealed!
 2. The 5th Commandment defined
 - a. Obedience to earthly parents – is conditional and not absolute; provided that what the parent requires of the child is in keeping with the written word of God. The example of the Lord Jesus, Lk.2:51.
 - b. Honor for earthly parents – this aspect of the obligation is never outgrown, but is always owed throughout the child’s earthly life or as long as the child’s parents are living.
 - 1) Honor includes loving parents with a holy love that is inferior in priority to God, to your spouse (if married) and to your fellow-believer (if regenerated)

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- The Lord Jesus did all things to please His heavenly Father. Though He assigned to His earthly mother an inferior love in place of priority, He never failed to render unto His earthly mother the love that was due to her, as His mother
- 2) Honor includes **ca**ring for our parents – “*Woman...*”. The Lord Jesus called His earthly mother “*Woman*” and not “mother”, not out of disrespect, BUT that:
 - a) He might **not add** strength to her passions by a tenderness of speaking (not pierce her heart with a deeper wound) The 2 ways a child affects his/her parents’ hearts: 1) How they turn out – either wise or foolish, Pr.10:1, 2) How others treat their child
 - b) He might **conceal** her from the mob, lest she be exposed to their cruel and rude insults
 - c) She might **know** that all natural-earthly relation was ceasing between them – a deterrent to “Mary-worship”
 - d) She might **remember** that her first aim must be to live the life of faith as a believing woman, like all other Christian women –
- 3) Honor includes **providing** for our parents in their old age (Prov.23:22) or in the event of our death – “...*Woman behold your son!...Behold your mother!...*”
 - a) Though the Lord Jesus was Lord of all, He had very little of this world’s goods to leave to her
 - b) The Lord Jesus did have the spiritual benefit of having a faithful, loving disciple and to that disciple, the Lord Jesus entrusted the care of His earthly mother.

II. Applications

- A. To Believers: **Be conformed to the image of the Son of God!** Continually endeavor to be an exemplary earthly son or daughter to your parents. Manifest your love for God by diligently obeying His holy law. (Matt.5:16, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”)
- B. To Unbelievers: It is your present obligation to acknowledge and perfectly obey God’s law, which remains written on your heart. If you have broken this 5th Commandment, then you desperately need the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Savior! **Repent of all your sins against God and plead with God to be merciful to you a sinner!**

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