

Saturday Evening, Nov. 6
Breakout Lecture Session

7:40 p.m.
Family Room

Jesus & His MotherRhonda Thompson
(Ladies only, please)

"His mother kept all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51). Jesus and His mother, Mary, shared a special relationship. She trained and taught Him as a child, and He was subject unto her. She had faith and confidence in Him as He began His ministry, and He was respectful of her. She followed Him to His death, and He remained mindful and appreciative of her until the end.

Introduction

1. Mary is one of five women listed in the genealogy of Jesus recorded by Matthew (1:16).
 - a. She was from Nazareth (Luke 1:26-27).
 - b. Was she of the tribe of Levi, since she was a relative of Elizabeth (Luke 1:5, 36)? Or was she of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, as Joseph was?
 - c. Mary was probably a teenager (12-16 years old) when she was told that God had chosen her to bring His Son into the world.
 - d. She was a virgin, which was fulfillment of prophecy (Isa. 7:14).
 - e. Mary accepted the challenge from God with child-like faith. She responded to God's admonition, "Do not be afraid," by repeatedly calling herself God's "maidservant"/ "bondslave."

I. A Challenge, a Dilemma for Joseph

- A. How would he respond to the challenge of being the husband of Mary, and the earthly father of God's Son? He was willing to listen to God's admonition, "Do not be afraid."
- B. For the trip to Bethlehem, and unexpected things after Jesus' birth, Mary & Joseph had to depend on each other & God more than ever.

II. Reminders of Jesus' Divinity

- A. When He was 8 days old, Mary & Joseph took the infant to the Temple for the ceremony "to present Him to the Lord" (Ex. 13:2, 12, 15).
- B. Anna and Simeon's praise to God and prophetic words caused Mary to "ponder" and "keep all these things in her heart."
- C. About two years later, astrologers (magi/wisemen) came to see Him.

III. Jesus' Boyhood

- A. A journey to Egypt required Mary & Joseph to trust each other & God.
- B. They lived in a foreign environment, looking for work, homeless, poorly educated immigrants, and Jewish immigrants at that.

- C. They returned to Nazareth, established a home, and four more sons and some daughters were added to the family (Matt. 13:55-56).

IV. The Only Information Given About Jesus' Boyhood

- A. Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem with Jesus when He reached His twelfth birthday.
- B. More emphasis on Jesus' divinity: "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:48-49).
- C. Once again Mary was confronted with things that she "kept all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51).

V. Jesus Began His "New Job" 18 Years Later and Left Home.

- A. Mary became one of the women who worked behind the scenes to take care of the physical needs of Jesus and His apostles (Matt. 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 23:49).
- B. She was rebuked by Jesus at the wedding in Cana (John 2) and in front of a large crowd in Mark 3.
- C. There was no longer any doubt that her relationship with Jesus was no longer as His mother. She was one of many whom He came to teach, to serve, and to save.

VI. Three Years of Mountains/Valleys for a Mother & Her Son

- A. For all the miracles and sermons, there were as many attacks against Jesus' character and His teachings. There was absolutely nothing she could do to shield Him. All she could do was pray.
- B. A mother and her Son, facing unspeakable evil, confronted His death in their own ways. Overwhelmed by sadness and uncertainty, Mary undoubtedly remembered all those things she had "kept in her heart." Though suffering physically, Jesus knew that she would understand better in three days, and He would finally return to His Father.
- C. 2 of the 7 sayings from the cross related to His mother (Jn. 19:26-27).
- D. Among all the people to whom Jesus revealed Himself after His resurrection, Mary is not specifically named.
- E. Mary is not mentioned in Hebrews 11 as one of the great heroes of faith, though she was one of the unnamed, faithful women who "received back their dead by resurrection" (Heb. 11:35a).

Conclusion

1. Mary: part of that "great cloud of witnesses" described (Heb. 12:1)
 - a. She was the only human witness to most of Jesus' life on earth, the only human witness to the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation, from beginning to end.



Rhonda Thompson is an Instructor in Spanish at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. Rhonda is the proud mother of Chad and Cody, and the proud grandmother of Cade, Chance and Cooper.