**Jesus and His Mother**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 1:26-38

**The Big Idea**

Being Jesus’ mother was a journey full of joy, wonder, and grace, but it also involved profound challenges, loss, and surrender.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Which of Mary’s encounters with Jesus that we considered on Sunday impacted you most, and why?

2. Consider Simeon’s words to Mary in terms of what Jesus’ presence in her life would mean: “A sword will pierce your own soul too.” Consider together some of the ways the presence of Jesus in our lives can lead to the piercing of our souls. If you are willing, share a concrete example from your own life.

3. Consider Jesus’ redefinition of family in Mark 3: “Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” Do you think we tend to over-emphasize the biological/nuclear family in our churches? Discuss what you think should be the proper relationship between the biological family and the family of faith.

4. To the mothers in the group: how specifically has your experience of motherhood shaped your discipleship to Jesus?

**Sermon Outline**

I. Mother’s Day

A. Being a mother is a sacred role filled with profound significance

B. Being a mother is a challenging role that requires nothing short of surrender

C. That is also true of discipleship to Jesus

II. Mary’s Encounters with Jesus

A. The Encounter with the angel Gabriel and the announcement of a supernatural pregnancy (Luke 1:26-38)

1. Imagine being brought into the center of God’s salvation story. Imagine carrying a supernatural child who is the Messiah inside of you for 9 months

2. Mary’s response is exemplary: “I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.” She has no idea what this adventure will be like, but she is a willing servant of the Lord.

B. Mary’s visit with Elizabeth and her Magnificat (Luke 1: 39-56)

1. Consider these two very unlikely women (one a barren older woman, one a young peasant girl) each carrying miracle babies.

2. Mary’s Magnificat focuses on the great reversal of fortunes so consistent in God’s salvation plan: the poor are honored, the humble are raised up.

3. The Magnificat echoes Hannah’s prayer of thanks in 1 Samuel

C. The birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-20)

1. Mary encounters God’s unlikely work through the lowly and the poor

a. A feeding trough for a king

b. Lowly shepherds as the first witnesses.

2. Mary experiences the reality that life with the king will not be a life of comfort and ease

3. Mary treasures up all of these things and ponders them in her heart.

D. The dedication of Jesus (Lk 2:21-35)

1. Simeon’s prophecy reveals that the future of this child will not be smooth sailing, but rather will create much conflict among people.

2. Mary learns that a sword will pierce her own soul as well. That is, she won’t simply observe her son creating conflict in others, but his presence will challenge her own heart in profound ways.

E. The Flight to Egypt (Mt 2:13-23)

1. The presence of Jesus put the whole family in danger, so they had to set out at once for another country, facing danger and lots of unknowns along the way.

2. Mary and her family became refugees for a time in a foreign land, dependent on the provision of God and the generosity of others. Jesus’ presence in her life meant leaving everything that was predictable and familiar.

F. Jesus staying behind in Jerusalem at 12 years of age (Lk 2:41-52)

1. This 3 day search for her son must have been 3 of the most terrifying days of Mary’s life.

2. Jesus’ response to his parents is his first significant act of separation and differentiation from them. They are beginning to learn that he is not simply their little boy but has other agendas and priorities that are beyond them (the priorities of his heavenly Father).

3. Their illusion of control over their son began to be stripped away

G. The Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11)

1. By this time, Mary has come to know her son as a compassionate and highly responsible and resourceful man. Whether or not she expects him to do a miracle is debated, but she clearly knows he is the person to come to in moments of crisis.

2. Jesus’ response to his mother is compassionate but also creates tension. He is reminding her that he is not just driven by her needs and desires but by his heavenly Father’s priorities and timing. Yet, in his compassion for his mother and this married couple, he performs a miracle.

H. Who are my mothers and brothers? (Mk 3:20-35)

1. Jesus’ siblings clearly do not believe he is the messiah prior to his resurrection, and it seems as though even Mary wonders whether things have gotten a little out of hand in Jesus’ ministry.

2. Jesus’ response was a blunt and potentially hurtful confrontation of Mary’s assumptions, as Jesus begins to redefine family around faith rather than biology.

3. Ultimately, even Mary herself would have to learn how to reframe her relationship with Jesus, seeing her faith commitment to him as even more primary than her biological connection with him.

I. Jesus final week leading to the crucifixion (Jn 19:25-27)

1. Imagine how painful the events of Jesus’ crucifixion must have been for Mary!

2. In a very tender moment, and even in the midst of his own suffering, Jesus entrusts his mother into the care of John, one of his best friends. His compassion for his mom, not just as a disciple but as his mother, shows through here.

J. Post resurrection prayer and Pentecost (Acts 1:12-14)

1. Our last passage with Mary finds her praying constantly with the other disciples in Jerusalem.

2. Undoubtedly, she was present for Pentecost

3. Imagine what it must have been like for her to experience the Spirit of her Son making his home inside of her.

4. Just as she had carried Jesus inside for 9 months, she would now carry him inside through his Spirit for all eternity.