

WHAT HE SAID ABOUT COMPASSION - 3

Seven Sayings From the Cross

Woman, behold your son.
Son, behold your mother.
— JOHN 19:26

Principle #3:

Be sure you've taken care
of those closest to you
when you're going
through a bad day.

Don't make others pay
the price of your
frustration—
don't transmit your
trauma to them.

You've heard the adage, "*If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!*" How often does someone come home from a miserable day at work and transmit his irritation and frustration to the kids or spouse?

Though surrounded by pain and turmoil and the swirling of events targeting His death, Jesus turned His concern to His mother's personal plight. Jesus took time to take care of His mother's needs, knowing that she lived in a culture in which women were most often disenfranchised by the death of men in their lives. Likewise, Jesus' followers refuse to speak and act in ways that make those closest to them pay a price for their own pain and frustration. They refuse to allow their own pain to dull their sensitivity to the needs of others who depend on them.

WELCOME/WORSHIP

Have you ever thought about "trading places" with someone, just to see what their life was like? Explain.

The community of faith is one of the tangible results of Jesus' death on the Cross. Celebrate the relationships you enjoy because of Christ. 704—"Bind Us Together," 705—"A Common Love," 364—"Come, Share the Lord," 719—"Love One Another," 711—"Blest Be the Tie."

WORD

Read John 19:23-27

1. How do you think Mark, Jesus' mother, felt as she stood by the cross? From what you know in other gospel passages, how had Jesus prepared His mother for this moment (notice that it had been predicted by Simeon as early as Jesus' birth, Luke 2:34-35.)
2. Why does Jesus say this to His mother? What do you learn from the way in which Jesus ministered to His mother, even as He experienced the agony of the cross?
3. Do you have a tendency to take out your frustration on someone else when you're going through bad days? Brainstorm ways to diffuse your stress and frustration rather than allowing it to spill over into other relationships, and poison them.
4. At the Cross, Jesus created a new family—a "faith" family. In what ways did Jesus live out, and experience the truth of His own words in Matthew 19:29?
5. In what ways have you experienced the reality of this same call to discipleship?

WORKS

God wants the church to be a caring community where total strangers come together in Jesus Christ—a place where one always has brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers. *What are the implications of this passage both in terms of your own physical and spiritual relationships?*

Is there someone in your family or circle of friends that you've neglected lately? If the Lord brings someone to mind, ask Him to help you know how to connect with them and encourage them. Commit to take action this week—send an e-mail, jot down a note, make a phone call, or stop by for a visit.