



A God with a Mother

Wednesday, April 3 at 11 & 7

Fifth Wednesday of Lent – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on Jesus being *a God with a mother!* As we very well know, *the Son of God was with the Father in the beginning* ([John 1:1](#)); then, *in the fullness of time* ([Gal. 4:4-5](#)), the Son of God put on human flesh ([John 1:14](#)) – *as He was conceived by the Holy Spirit within Mary, His mother* ([Luke 1:35](#))!

When it comes to Jesus' mother, *she was chosen by God above all other women to be the one through whom the Savior would come into the world* ([Matt. 1:21](#); [Luke 1:28-30](#)). She was also given the privilege of raising Jesus from infancy; however, JESUS HIMSELF IS THE ONE **✦**who is God in flesh, **✦**who lived for us, **✦**who was punished in our place, and **✦**who won the victory over death and hell on our behalf!

Today we begin with a prophecy in Isaiah chapter 49, *which points ahead to Jesus*; then we will jump ahead to a scene when Jesus is on His cross and expresses care for His mother.

1. **A Prophecy Pointing Ahead to Jesus:** Two weeks ago we looked at the *fourth Servant Song*; what follows here is part of the *second Servant Song* in which the pre-incarnate Christ will tell us why He was sent by God the Father. Even though He is speaking about 700 years before He put on human flesh, *He speaks in the past tense because He is not bound by time and knows exactly what is coming!*

- a. My call: ¹ **Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.** [*With those words, the Son of God was addressing the entire known world, since He would come to benefit all people.*] **The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.**
- i. Some prophecies about His coming:
1. God said to the devil: “I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he [*My Son*] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15 ESV).
 2. ^{ESV} **Isaiah 7:14** ...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 3. ^{ESV} **Micah 5:2** ...O Bethlehem Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
- ii. A prophecy about His name: An angel said to Joseph in a dream regarding Mary: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus [*meaning, the Lord saves*], because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21 NIV).
- b. My weapon: ² **He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.** // Many know the phrase, “**the pen is mightier than the sword**” (Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1839). Between our text and those words, we understand that God’s Servant would defeat His enemies with God’s Word of Truth (2 Cor. 10:3-5)!

- c. My mission: ³ **And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”** // Since the nation of Israel *did not* glorify God, God the Father promised to raise up a sinless Israelite in the Person of Jesus; *then Jesus glorified God with sinless obedience!*
- d. My discouragement: ⁴ **But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.”** // Even though multitudes followed Jesus, by Good Friday nearly everyone had run away – *which could certainly cause a feeling of having “labored in vain.”*
- e. My encouragement: ⁵ **And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—** // Even though Jesus’ work was extremely painful and difficult, *God encouraged Him and strengthened Him!*
- f. My reach: ⁶ **he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”** // Let’s get this right: *All have sinned, so God sent His Son to live, suffer, and die for all; now, for all people in all nations who trust in Jesus, they are forgiven, saved, redeemed!*

2. **Jesus Caring for His Mother from His Cross**: At this point Jesus has †been crucified and †asked the Father to

forgive the soldiers who did that work; now, a small numbers of supporters are near His cross.

- a. The three women: ^{ESV} **John 19:25 ...standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. //** Interesting that all three were named Mary, *even the sister of Mary*; they may have been half-sisters. John, *the gospel writer*, was also there (for more info, see [Lk. 23:49](#)).
- b. Jesus being responsible: ²⁶ **When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. //** Think about Jesus' family: His mother, Himself, and His siblings ([Mark 6:3](#)). **Since** ♦Jesus was the oldest son, ♦Jesus would soon lay down His life, ♦Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him ([John 7:5](#)), ♦Jesus' brothers were not present, ♦John was Jesus' closest friend, and ♦Mary needed someone to care for her, *Jesus passed His responsibility to John who gladly accepted!* Therefore, *John took Mary into his home beginning on that very night.*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, *our God in human flesh*, even though You were greatly suffering, You took loving action toward Your mother! Help us to take loving action for others!

Some of the content of this sermon is from the series, Behold the Man (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2018).

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Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230