

The home life of Martha and Mary are referred to and I believe that the woman we are concerned about today knew that Jesus had spiritual concern for her. And she joined the great group around the cross. These other women were busy. Perhaps all of them were not ready to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, but it was a manifestation of courage. He had had compassion on their children, and on the sick, and on the wounded.

Jesus is always appealing to the spiritual in womanhood. As we think of women today who teach God's word, women who gather for prayer meetings. We think of Mary standing in this group around the cross... humble women... hard working women. We cannot fail but to realize that Jesus was interested in their spiritual welfare.

2. He showed his concern through compassion

Lk. 23: 26-29

Jesus was on the cross... sinless, and now he sees these women, weeping, even as he had wept over Jerusalem. Even unto this day, Jesus has compassion for the woman who goes through the trials and the furnaces of sorrow. When wars take husbands and sons, it seems to me that Jesus reaches out with his compassion, and would minister to women, and the children. Maria, being the mother of Jesus, was with him when he was crucified.

When we think of women who have to manage on little income, and in some parts of the world, their children die of starvation. When we think of women who have to bear with a rebellious and drunkard husband, who wastes his substance when we think of women who are concerned because their children are abused and mistreated, we cannot ~~but~~ help but feel that Jesus had a compassion in his heart for womanhood.

3. He shows his concern by giving them a message.

Lk. 23: 31

We see that Jesus, here at the cross with this group of women standing around, speaks to them. The howling mob, the Roman guard are practically ignored as Jesus glances toward these women. Because he knows of their loyalty, of their prayer, of their service to the sick, and that they will have a part in the fulfillment of the kingdom. And so they're instructed to dry their tears. They are to be happy in the Lord's kingdom. What if the women of this city should join the women of Jerusalem of that day, and take their place, and stand by the cross of Jesus.

They are in joy - So the message is a call to preparation, hope, service, joy and to remember when you are suffering under the wrath of God -

III. Lessons we learn from Mary Magdalene.

I. Nothing to forget. This may sound strange at first but blessed is the life which has nothing to forget. Mary was not a woman with a past. I do not believe there was a person that day, standing around the cross, who had less self-reproach than she. Her early years had been blank, and since she had been loose from the bonds, of the seven devils, she had been unfaltering in her faith, in her loyalty to the things that were right and were pure.

Today there are some people who look lightly upon this idea. They have a tendency to think that a man or a woman who has not had a wild, wayward sinful, youth, is not genuine. They feel that a person with a dark story behind him is interesting. They feel that a young person who has been blameless and innocent has missed the romance of life. They feel that a woman should feel the reckless spurs of sin. Somehow, they feel that the deeper a person has gone in sin, the finer saint he becomes. To me, that is one of the lies (of the devil). To think that one has to be rebellious in order to understand what it is to be a Christian. It is foolish to think that a man has to be snatched from the burning, or has to be a prodigal. In my judgment it is better for you to have nothing to forget.

Some of the most wholesome people you will ever know, are people who have no memories of such ungodly sin. The man who lives a dark life always has his sins finding him out. But a gentle life with no shadows to darken it will come nearer having a good disposition, a balanced temper, and will be able to walk in the paths of righteousness, and understands just as well, the power of God in forgiving sin, and the power of God in service. Show Wholeness Sunday Bible Study

Who are the strong saints in every generation. They are young men who have kept themselves unspotted, as (Joseph) with holy dreams, as (Samuel) with his ears open to God's call, as (John) the Baptist with a blameless youth, growing to old age. And sweet is the fellowship of a life that is lived in the presence of God, trying to please God, all of ones days. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" -- give your first thoughts to Jesus... give your first talent your first influence, and you will never regret it.