

MARY: THE CROWN JEWEL OF MOTHERHOOD

Text: Luke 1:26-30

For any man to dare attempt on Mother's Day to explain to ladies how to be a great mother under normal circumstances would be venturing into unknown territory in which he has no business. The benefit of teaching what the Bible says and studying the life of the mother of our Lord gives us an insight that will be more than acceptable among all mothers who call themselves Christian. Let us therefore take a closer look at Mary. Among the women of the Bible there is none more famous and more worthy to learn what a great mother is all about.

1. A great mother is pure.

Luke 1:27, 34 The Bible says, *"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies"* (Proverbs 31:10). The largest double-star ruby in the world is the Neelanjali Ruby, which weighs 1,370 carats (274 g). It was unveiled to the world at the end of 1988, and immediately entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest double-star ruby. Going on the rareness of double-star rubies, its estimated price has been put around \$100 million. The virgin Mary who boldly told the angel Gabriel, *"...I know not a man"* (Luke 1:34b), was the most virtuous woman in the earth. She was the double-star ruby of holiness that was worth much more than 100 million dollars.

Being pure brings you closer to the Lord. A closeness to the Lord is the most important thing for a child. Mothers who are close to the Lord are the best examples and serve as the family Polaris pointing the way to go. Jesus said, *"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God"* (Matthew 5:8). Only those who see God can show others where to find God and only the pure in heart see God.

2. A great mother does not require prior experience.

Luke 1:28-30 Gabriel informed Mary, "...*thou hast found favour with God*" (Luke 1:30c). The word for "favor" is a translation of the Greek word "charis" which means "grace, the Divine influence upon the heart." God has granted virtuous women the gifting of grace called motherhood. It does not require prior experience; baby girls are born with it. Have we not all seen little girls playing house and dolls. It is the grace that God has placed on them, unique in every way.

3. A great mother sees possibility in the impossibilities.

Luke 1: 37, 38 Mary is told that nothing is impossible with God. Then she says in faith, "...*be it unto me according to thy word...*" (Luke 1:38b). This is the moment, I believe, that she became with child. The power of the Highest just overshadowed her (Luke 1:35b). A mother needs the kind of faith that says, "...*be it unto me according to thy word...*" to rear a child in the culture we are living in today.

4. A great mother often has a great husband.

Matthew 1:18-25 Many a mother has reared children successfully without the aid of a dedicated spouse. "*For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy*" (I Corinthians 7:14). On the other hand, it is a double blessing when both parents are saved, separated and serving Jesus together. Notice what we can see in the life of Mary's husband, the stepfather of Jesus.

- A. Joseph was protective: Matthew 1:19
- B. Joseph was open and available for the plan of God: Matthew 1:20, 21
- C. Joseph was a man of the Book: Matthew 1:22, 23
- D. Joseph was a man of character and restraint: Matthew 1:24, 25
- E. Joseph hears from God: Matthew 2:13-15

5. A great mother has a heart full of praise.

Luke 1: 46-49 I've never known God to bless a griping, mean and unhappy person. Mary knew she was in for some difficult days, but she was so overwhelmed with what God was doing, she could hardly contain herself.

A mother who praises God, makes God look good to her kids. Has it ever occurred to you that the faith of our children is affected when they see you complaining and acting bitter toward God? It doesn't make the kids want to serve this kind of a God, whereas, a mother who praises God makes serving Jesus look joyful and exciting. *"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God"* (Psalm 50:23).

6. A great mother is patient.

Luke 8:19-21 Here Jesus almost sounds like He is brushing Mary and his siblings off. He was not. He was illustrating the unbiased love of God to "whosoever will"! These words of Jesus had to have caused inward pain to Mary. Mary is patient and kind; she steps back and allows those people who wanted to see Jesus to see Him and decide to follow Him. *"Be patient therefore...Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it..."* (James 5:7a, b). This verse is specifically speaking of being patient for the coming of the Lord, but the principle is true in child rearing; we patiently go through the stages of a child's life until they are grown. The fruit is precious and we should, as the Bible says, have *"...long patience for it...."*

7. A great mother is one who does what Jesus says.

John 2:5 Mary is showing us something very important. She is showing us *"...that in all things He might have the preeminence..."* (Colossians 1:18b). At this point in Jesus' life, she is respecting Him as Lord of all. If this most godly of all mothers would say, *"...Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it"* (John 2:5), how much more should we not all say whatsoever He says to me, I will do it?

8. A great mother is a follower of Christ to the very end.

John 19:25, *"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene."* Mother love is one of the strongest loves ever known. Many a man who has wrecked and ruined his life will always have his mother by his side, even when all others fail. Our Lord was dying the death as the Lamb of God who is taking away the sin of the world. *"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?"* (John 6:67). *"And they all forsook him, and fled"* (Mark 14:50). Even though many of the

disciples were coming and going through these formative hours for the church, Mary was steadfast! What an example to us all!

9. A great mother is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 and Acts 2:1, 4a Jesus said, *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”* (Luke 24:49). The Bible tells us Mary the mother of our Lord was in the midst of those tarrying in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit power came. *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren”* (Acts 1:14). *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...”* (Acts 2:1, 4a). Mary is again setting an example for all of us. If she needed the power of the Holy Spirit, we all do. Our children need so much more than we can give them; they need God. Let us take the challenge to be *“...filled with all the fullness of God”* (Eph. 3:19c).

Mary is a great example to not only mothers, but to fathers and children as well. Do we not all need to be pure? Do we not all need to find favor with God? Do we not all need to believe God for the impossible? Who doesn't desire to be a worthy spouse? We all need to praise God! We all need patience. We all should aspire to do what Jesus said to the very end. Are we not all commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.