

LESSONS FROM MARY

DATE: SUNDAY, 10TH MAY 2020 | MOTHER'S DAY

LUKE 2:15-19

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child [that He was Saviour and Christ the Lord], and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

JOHN 2:3-5

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

NOTE TO LEADERS:

The key objectives this week are:

1. To get people to connect - whether it is back into a life group, with their friends, family colleagues etc.
2. That we should treasure God's promises to us in our hearts

START TALKING

1. What did you take away from Sunday's message?
2. What is a treasured memory from your childhood?

START THINKING

1. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. What are the benefits of trusting God and His promises? How can you apply this to your life today?
2. Read John 2:3-5. When Mary came to Jesus with the problem of the wine, she didn't tell Him how to fix it - she had complete faith that He would know what to do because of the things she had "treasured and pondered" in her heart. How can we submit our problems to God when we bring them to Him?

START SHARING

1. Read Luke 2:9-17. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, it must have been a life-changing experience for them - something they possibly shared about for years to come, and like Mary, treasured it in their hearts. Have you ever had an encounter with God which you treasure in your heart? Or a time when He revealed His love to you in a special way? If so, describe the experience. How did this encounter with God impact you?
2. Read John 2:3-5. Mary had true confidence that Jesus would perform a miracle. Jax described full confidence in God as: "Being willing to do whatever God tells us to do because we know that we can trust Him". Share with the group about a time that you exercised full confidence in God. What action did He ask you to do? What gave you the courage to take a leap of faith? What promise did He give you?

START PRAYING

Thank you, Lord, that we can trust in Your promises because they are true. May we be reminded to treasure your promises so that in times of trouble we can draw on Your abundant strength - not only for ourselves but for others too.

START DOING

Before Jax preached on Sunday, Steve spoke about connection and how important it is for us - we were created to be in community! Have you found yourself disengaging from friends, family, your life group, colleagues as the lockdown has continued? Purpose to take one step this week to connect where you've begun to disengage - reach out to a friend or family member with a text, reconnect with your lifegroup, call a colleague...

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we celebrated Mother's day; and Jax shared an encouraging message that was not only for mothers, but relevant to all of us.

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Jesus' mother, Mary, but it does give us some glimpses into her character and there is something we can learn from her.

Let's go back to when Jesus was born - when the angels appear to the shepherds who are watching their sheep - they tell the shepherds that the Saviour has been born... *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child [that He was Saviour and Christ the Lord], and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*** Luke 2:15-19.

...'Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.' To treasure something in your heart means to take note of it and to see it as valuable - much like putting something that's important in a safe place so that we can take it out and remind ourselves about it, or even remind others.

There must have been many times when Mary had to remind herself of some of the things that God had said about her Son, Jesus - the promise and purpose. And it's the same for us. Sometimes, situations and circumstances can make us doubt what God has put in our hearts. But when God looks at us HE doesn't see our mistakes and our failures; He sees our potential, and His plans for us, and His creative genius. He sees our future, and what He can do through our current circumstances. Wouldn't you like to see yourself through God's eyes, through His promises?

What about the way we see others? Our friends or family members? What are we treasuring in our hearts about them? Do we see them the way God sees them? Brimming with potential and promise, because of what God can do. Or do we view them through their last mistake or their current circumstances. When we view ourselves and others through the lens of potential and promise; when we remind ourselves of what God thinks of us, and what He has planned for us; we have fresh grace and strength for ourselves and for others. It gives us hope, even when things seem hopeless. Or when we are not sure what to do.

Another story that gives us a glimpse of Mary and her relationship with Jesus can be found in John 2:3-5: *When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."*

"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Mary had full confidence in Jesus!

What does full confidence look like to you? Full confidence is being willing to do whatever God tells us to do, because we know that we can trust Him. *"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."* Jeremiah 17:7-8.