

Family Focused
Relationships with Widows
John 19:25-27

Introduction:

Is there a difference between how we typically think of the word “single” and how the Bible might define people who are single?

How do widows and Christ’s death on the cross go together?

Three significant reasons why Jesus cared for His Mother on the cross:

1. Jesus’ care is significant because of what _____ – vs. 28
 - a. “_____ this . . .” – vs. 28
 - b. “Jesus, knowing that all things were _____ accomplished.”
 - c. If Jesus didn’t care for His mother, one could rightfully argue from this context that there was some _____ business.
 - d. Remember Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets, which includes honoring your father and your mother.
 - e. Jesus caring for his mother is a testimony to His perfect _____.

2. Jesus’ care is significant because of what happened _____.
 - a. “And _____ that hour” – vs. 27
 - b. Jesus’ testimony before the cross was a vivid description of true _____.
 - c. “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble” – James 1:27
 - d. This earthly testimony of Jesus should not surprise us because this is the very _____ of God, a defender of the widow.
 - e. Psalm 68:4-6

3. Jesus’ care is significant because of what Jesus did _____ on the cross – vs. 25-27
 - a. Why does Jesus care for His mom while he is dying on the cross?
 - b. This passage is full of _____.
 - c. The one whom Jesus’ loved, was now _____ others.
 - d. John, the beloved disciple, who is under no biological obligation to care for Mary, lovingly takes Mary and receives her to his home.
 - e. John’s name means “Yahweh is _____.”
 - f. So John, whose name means “Yahweh is gracious” and one who is identified as the beloved disciple, becomes a picture of the grace of God.
 - g. Isn’t that what _____ are supposed to do, point others to the grace of God?
 - h. Caring for widows is a picture of the grace of God.

Widows and the Process of Discipleship:

1. If you are a disciple of Christ and there is a widow in your family, you have a glorious opportunity to model the _____ of Christ.
 - a. This is good and acceptable before God – 1 Timothy 5:4
 - b. If you do not provide for your own you have _____ the faith – 1 Timothy 5:8
2. As a church, as we have true widows (1 Timothy 5) in our congregation, we have a tremendous opportunity to be faithful disciples of Christ by modeling the gospel in caring for them.
 - a. We are to honor true widows – 1 Timothy 5:3
 - i. Children
 - ii. Young people
 - iii. Young men and ladies
 - iv. Families
 - v. All of us
3. Widows, you have an opportunity to live for _____ in your widowhood.
 - a. Encourage _____ – 1 Timothy 5:9-10
 - b. Keep _____ as you are able – 1 Timothy 5:10
 - c. Maximize your freedom from _____ responsibilities by having a special devotion to Christ – Luke 2:37

Discussion Questions:

1. What are you learning from the Word this week? How have you applied or shared what you are learning in your family?
2. What are some implications from defining terms like “single” from a Biblical perspective? What is missed when you automatically accept the “normal” definition?
3. What are some results of the government caring for widows rather than the family or the church caring for widows?
4. What has been your greatest challenge or blessing in caring for a widow?
5. Widows, what has been your greatest challenge? How have you been blessed in your widowhood?
6. What is a specific way that you can apply this message in the next week/month?