

Digging Deeper into John 19:23-27

Chat

- Whether you are a parent, a child, or both, what do you think are the most joyful things about being a parent?
- What do you think are the most difficult things about being a parent?



Study

Read John 19:23-27

- It was common for Roman soldiers on duty at a crucifixion to take prisoners' clothing for themselves. John, as an eyewitness (most believe he is the disciple referred to in v.26-27) goes into detail about how this happened in the case of Jesus (v.23-24).
 - What do you see the soldiers doing here?
 - How do you think this might have made Jesus feel?
- John sees this as the fulfilment of Psalm 22:18. Look back at this Psalm and see the many connections with the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Who is standing near the cross and who isn't there (v.25-26, see also Mt.27:55-56; Mk.15:40-41)? Does this tell you anything?
- As Mary saw her son, Jesus, on the cross, I wonder if she thought back to things she had been told about him or things she had seen. What comes to your mind as you picture her there?
- Mary had some younger sons but Jesus does not put her into their care. Instead, he places her in the care of John. Why do you think he does this (Jn.7:5 might help; and it's possible that John was his cousin)?
- Remember that Jesus has been beaten, humiliated, insulted and is now dying in pain on the cross as he speaks to his mother and to John (v.26-27)? What do we learn about Jesus from this? What lessons are there for us?

Think

How can you welcome and include others into the love and protection of your family?

Mary at the cross

(A poem by Clyde McGee which may help as you think about parents of children who have died in the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world)

And Mary stood beside the cross! Her soul
Pierced with the self-same wound that rent His side
Who hung thereon. She watched Him, as He died.
Her son! Saw Him paying the cruel toll
Exacted by the law, and unbelief,
Since He their evil will had dared defy.
There stood the mother helpless in her grief,
Beside the cross, and saw her first-born die!

How many mothers in how many lands
Have bowed with Mary in her agony,
In silence borne the wrath of war's commands,
When every hill is made a Calvary!

O pity, Lord, these mothers of the slain,
And grant their dead shall not have died in vain.

