

**At the Foot of the Cross**  
**Palm Sunday: John 19:25-27**

**Family and Friends at the Cross**

- 1. Mary, His Mother. *What do you do when the promises of God go rancid?***
  - a. God made promises to Mary.
    - i. **Luke 1:31-33 (NIV)** *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.*
    - ii. **Luke 1:48-49 (NIV)** *From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.*
    - iii. **Luke 2:32-35 (NIV)** *a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.* "The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."
    - iv. **Luke 2:38 (NJB)** *She came up just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.*
    - v. **Luke 2:48-51 (NJB)** *They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' He replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he meant. He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart.*
  - b. What happened to God's promises?
  - c. You grieve and you wait (cf. Acts 1:14).
- 2. Mary's Sister, His Aunt. *What do you do when you're glad that your prayers weren't answered?***
  - a. When you piece together the stories, the picture you see is Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, John 19:25).
  - b. Salome asked for more than she knew (Matthew 20:20-24).
  - c. You grieve and you wonder.
- 3. Mary, Wife of Clopas. *What do you do when grief overwhelms you?***
  - a. We know her story the least. Is she the least visible? (cf. Luke 24:18?)
  - b. Not all stories are dramatic. Most aren't.
  - c. You grieve your own loss and bear the grief of others.
- 4. Mary Magdalene: *What do you do when you received blessings but your benefactor is crucified?***
  - a. Some stories are dramatic. Mary had demons. Jesus freed her (Luke 8:1-3)
    - i. It made a difference. **Luke 8:15 (NLT)** *And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.*

- ii. The one forgiven most, loves most. **Luke 7:42-43 (NIV)** *Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.*
- b. You grieve and you can't believe how unfair God can be.

**5. John, the Beloved Disciple: *What do you do when your life is shattered?***

- a. John is probably Jesus' cousin (cf. John 19:25, Mt. 27:56, Mark 15:40).
- b. John is dazzled by Jesus (John 1:1-4, 1:14, 16-18; 20:25).
- c. John is in the inner circle (Mark 5:37; Mt. 17:1, 26:37; Mark 13:3), the disciple "whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24).
- d. You grieve and you go on.
  - i. **John 19:26-27 (NRSV)** *When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*
  - ii. Also see John 20:1-9; 20:19-30; 21:1-14.

**They Were Wrong. You Could Be.**

- 1. Grief makes you crazy.
- 2. God's plans are God-sized (cf. Jeremiah 29:10-14; John 1:50-51).
- 3. It's Friday, but Sunday's coming.  
[http://www.tonycampolo.org/mp3/Its\\_Friday\\_But\\_Sundays\\_Coming.mp3](http://www.tonycampolo.org/mp3/Its_Friday_But_Sundays_Coming.mp3)