

Palm Sunday, Jesus' Crucifixion and Glorious Resurrection

Youth Group Session Four

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Session

Does your mother worry about you? What types of things does she worry about? If you are sick, if you are not with her, if you are eating well, doing your homework, have good friends, etc.. Mary the Mother of God is no different than your mother. Let us read about her worries.

Read pages 36 – 38. Mary, like any mother, worried about her son. She knew He had a special job here on earth to teach people about God and how important it was to follow Him. Mary also knew that many people would not like what Jesus was teaching and she worried about what they might do to Him. For a short time on Palm Sunday Mary lost her worries. She saw that the people were greeting Jesus with shouts of joy. But soon her worries would come true.

What happened in particular to make Mary's worries even greater?

Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples, Judas. What does betrayed mean?

The Pharisees had Jesus arrested and Mary became very sick and concerned. Read pages 39 – 46.

Mary would not leave her son. She followed him from place to place watching and witnessing all the terrible things that happened to him – being beaten, sentenced to death, carrying the cross to Mount Golgotha and finally his crucifixion. Do you think it would be easy to watch someone you loved endure all of these things? Almost all of Jesus' disciples and followers left him as events got worse – they were afraid. Only Mary, a few women disciples and the beloved disciple John stayed until the end.

We are told that Jesus looks out for his mother's future, even while he is dying on the cross. What does he do?

As Jesus gives over His mother to John, he also gives her to all of us as mother; for her to intercede and worry and pray for us, just as she did for Him.

Mary knew where Jesus had been taken for burial. How do you think that she felt at this time?

Read pages 47 – 49 – these are called lamentations or sayings of sadness. These help us to understand how Mary felt.

Read page 51. Jesus first revealed himself risen from the dead to whom?

The women were on their way to anoint Jesus' body with special spices and oils. They had quite a surprise when they discovered the tomb empty and the angel sitting on the stone.

How do we know that Mary was present at this time?

This is important to know. The women were the ones who stayed with Jesus to His end. He gave them the gift of knowing of His resurrection before anyone else. Mary was present when Jesus raised his cousin Lazarus from the dead. She knows all things are possible in God. She had many examples of God's power throughout her life: her own birth, the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of her own son, the Messiah and Son of God.

How do you think Mary felt when she heard the news that her son had risen from the dead?

Mary has been present at almost every important happening in Jesus' life. There are only a few to which she did not witness herself. This shows us how important she is to Jesus and in His ministry.