

# Easter - Meeting Jesus

## John and Mary at the Cross

### Foundation

#### Bible passage : John 19.26-27

One of the features of the gospel of John is that the author never names himself in the text and identifies himself simply as a disciple, or “the disciple whom Jesus loved” in chapter 19, 20 and 21. This in turn fits with the fact that the gospel and indeed John’s three letters are riddled with love (160 times between them).

In this touching incident at the cross Jesus demonstrates both His love for His mother, Mary, and His trust in John.

We can behave in a selfish way at times, thinking about ourselves rather than others, and perhaps particularly if we are unwell or going through difficult things. Jesus was dying in agony on the cross. Yet in what He said He showed His **compassion** for Mary and His trust in John.

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

When Jesus was just a few days old his mother Mary had been told in a prophecy that “a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Lk 2.35). It must have been hard for Mary remembering what had been said about Jesus before his birth to see the opposition that mounted against him. But even more so to stand at the cross seeing her firstborn son die.

In some ways it was a small thing to ask John to take care of Mary, and we know from the Bible she had other sons, but it was also a recognition



From the video “Official actions for 'Big Family Of God' by Nick & Becky Drake”

of what Mary had to endure because of the role God had given to her.

What Jesus said also reminds us of a promise He made to Peter that because he and the others had left all to follow Jesus they would receive in this world “brothers and sisters and mothers and children” amongst other things. The Bible describes the followers of Jesus as “the household of God” and so we often find the language of brothers and sisters, parents and children being used. When people come to faith in Christ they become part of a **family**, His family. Today many find in church a closeness, concern and compassion for others which spans the generations.

John lived more than 60 years after this incident and outlived the other 12. He would later become known as “the elder”. In his first letter he wrote “little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3.18). When Jesus asked John to care for Mary he didn’t just say yes but “from that hour the disciple took her to his own home”.



**Jesus showed His compassion for Mary and pointed to how His followers are to be a family caring for one another.**