



SHEROES & CHAMPIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mary – The Mother of Jesus

Women's Discipleship Group - Terri McFaddin

Series #1 Lesson #6

Scripture Focus: *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." (Luke 2:34-35)*

Key Word: Blessed – (Greek-Eulogeo) To speak well of. To consecrate with solemn prayers.

OPENING STATEMENT:

When people think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, they usually confine her story to the conception of Jesus and her journey to Bethlehem. But if you search the scriptures you will find that Mary was a hands-on mom who was by the side of her eldest son throughout his ministry. According to Matthew 13:55, Jesus had 4 younger brothers named James, Joses, Simon, and Jude.

I call Mary a champion because from the beginning she accepted the call that the Lord had on her life and went on to overcome extreme adversity because of her son. She knew from the beginning that Jesus was no ordinary child and she treated him accordingly. When Herod threatened his life, she and Joseph fled to Egypt. When Jesus became of age she taught him about the Jewish faith and took him to Jerusalem for the holy days. When he ran off to talk to the elders she found him at the Temple and gave him a good scolding. During the early days of Jesus' ministry his teaching was so extreme that Mary thought he had lost his mind and came to take him home (Mark 3:20-32). Finally, when he carried the cross to Calvary, Mary was in the crowd weeping with the other women. She stayed at the foot of the cross until his body was taken down and placed in the tomb. It is believed that she was also present with the women when he rose from the dead. The mother who is committed to helping her child to fulfill their destiny is a champion indeed. In order for her child to be disciplined and dedicated, she must be disciplined and dedicated. In order for her child to pursue their vision, she must be a visionary. Whether she is a grandmother, aunt, teacher or neighbor, the world owes a debt of gratitude to all women who champion the cause of children.

Chronology of Mary's Life:

<u>Birth of Jesus:</u>	Gave birth to Jesus in a stable and laid Him in a manger. Luke 2:6
<u>Protected Jesus:</u>	Fled to Egypt to hide Jesus from Herod. Matthew 2:14
<u>Dedicated Jesus:</u>	Circumcised and presented Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem. Luke 2:22
<u>Trained Jesus:</u>	Observed religious holy days in Jerusalem. Luke 2:41
<u>Corrected Jesus:</u>	Chastised Jesus for acting without her permission. Luke 2:48
<u>Encouraged Jesus:</u>	Prompted Jesus to work a miracle at a wedding feast. John 2:3
<u>Rescued Jesus:</u>	Came to get Jesus when she thought he lost his mind. Mark 3:31
<u>Followed Jesus:</u>	Followed Jesus to the crucifixion. Luke 23:27
<u>Mourned Jesus:</u>	Stood at the foot of the cross weeping. John 19:26

OBSERVATIONS:

In Luke chapter 2, what two things did Mary hide and ponder in her heart?

INTERPRETATION:

Write down 3 things that you think are meant by the prophecy concerning Jesus in Luke 2:34-35.

PERSONALIZATION:

What advice would you give to women that they can use to help children become successful adults?

When you were young, how did your mother, or a mother figure, support and encourage you?

APPLICATION:

Think of something you can do to encourage one child (or several children) to become a more joyful and productive adult. Please follow through!