

GREATER THINGS - MOTHERS DAY EDITION!

Scripture used: [Acts 12:11-12 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Mother's Day is one of the most special times of the year. Pastor Hurmon is inviting us to reflect deeply on the powerful examples set for us by our mothers and mother figures. It's time to reflect on the attributes that make them so critical to our success as adults and as Jesus followers. This message builds from last week, when we saw how true relationships require us to own our stuff, apologize for the pain we've caused, and commit to new patterns of behavior. Our mothers and mother figures set the example of how to do this well. Their fingerprints are all over us, whether or not we realize it. Each of us can live better by discovering the best lessons from our childhood. And where our mothers led lives that were less than ideal, through God's grace we have the opportunity to redeem by being their legacy, to fix what is broken, to heal where there was pain. This is the example that Pastor Hurmon's great aunt set for him. She too overcame tragedy in her own life, demonstrated incredible resilience, and kept getting up. She provided for Hurmon when he was a child. She managed a tiny budget with frugality and thrift. She showed ingenuity by taking little and making it into much. And it is the example set for John Mark by his mother Mary, the focus of this week's scripture.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Mothers are resilient in the face of life's suffering.** Mary, mother of John Mark, had experienced massive loss in her life. She was a widow and probably a single mother, but her grief had not made her bitter. She still moved forward in life, becoming a pillar in her community. Mothers especially suffer heartbreak in life, yet they always rise again. This level of resilience is incredible.
- 2) **Mothers demonstrate ingenuity.** Despite being alone, Mary had a huge house that could host over a hundred people. She was a rich woman, and used those riches to bless others. Mothers take care of so many, often being the principal manager of the household, so that the members of the family have food to eat, clothes to wear, and a roof over our heads.
- 3) **Mothers take bold risks and act courageously.** Mary knew how dangerous it was to host Christians in her home. They were being persecuted by both King Herod and the Jewish leaders. But, she knew Jesus had the last word in her life, which gave her incredible courage. This same courage strengthens the millions of mothers who are frontline workers, facing daily risk to deliver service and care to those in need.
- 4) **Mothers are faithful.** Peter was in danger of being killed, and Mary knew it. She had witnessed how James had died. She knew God was not always going to protect them. She didn't let that stop her, though. In those moments of doubt where there are no easy answers, Mary turned to God. And so do many of our own mothers, who have been with us through every painful experience. Many mothers are ready with a Biblical word and a prayer, reminding us that God is triumphant. Mary knew that her material resources would not always protect her, or give her all the answers, but that prayer would. Prayers are like the maternal impetus: they take broken paths and rough ends and turn them into a life force.
- 5) **We write the next chapter in the story of our mother's story.** Who was this Mary? Why was her example so important? It turns out that her son John Mark became Peter's spiritual "son" as described in [1 Peter 5:13 \(NLT\)](#). Thanks to the lessons that she taught John Mark, he became one of the most prominent early followers of Jesus. He wrote the Gospel of Mark, the first account of the life of Jesus!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - No one has more of an impact on us than our mothers. Take some time to dwell on this. What's one life-shaping lesson you learned from your mother or mother figure? If you have mixed emotions when you think about your mother, give yourself some space to reflect on our feelings.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon will complete the message next Sunday. This week is a chance to celebrate your mother and mother figures, and to honor their memory if they are no longer with us. Over the next few days, identify ways you were shaped by their ingenuity, courage, and faith.
- 3) **DO** - Share the answers with your mother and mother figures if possible. If they are with God, instead share your answers with those closest to you. Join us next week as we continue to honor the unique role of women in our community, and examine how to bridge the tension and divide that so often so often separates men and women in our culture.