

March 5, 2023

Pastor Joe Hess



Study Guide

Famous Last Words

The Third Word

John 19:25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**" ²⁷ and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Ice Breaker Questions:

- Share one "good" habit and one "bad" habit.
- Did you give up anything for Lent? If so, how's that going for you?

Thoughts & Questions to Fuss With:

1. Joe shares from James Clear's book, "Atomic Habits" how small things done over time – can make a big difference in our lives. The example he gives is a jet taking off from LAX – adjusts his heading 3.5 degrees to the south – (an adjustment that's barely noticeable at takeoff) instead of landing in New York City – the jet lands in Washington DC. Have you made any small adjustments in your life that has had tremendous impacts?
2. We can respond to "Bids for Connection" in one of three ways:
 1. Towards; 2. Away (or neutral); or 3. Against.Review the characters in this story. Who's moving towards, away, or against?
3. The only disciple at the foot of the cross is John (often referred to as the disciple Jesus loved). The other disciples have disappeared. What would make John stay and the others run? Have you ever had to stand up for someone while the others ran?
4. Looking at verse 25: There are three Mary's and one sister of Mary's at the foot of the cross. What made them stay? What feelings did Mary have as she watched her son tortured on the cross? What feelings did the others share when they saw Mary suffer?
5. Mary's heart was breaking at the foot of the cross – but she was also very confused. Read Luke 1:26-38 (Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary). How was Mary moved from confusion to trust in this story?
6. Read Luke 2:8-20 (Shepherds arrival at the manger). How did this story affirm to Mary who Jesus was?
7. Read Mark 3:20-21 (Jesus' family thinks he's "out of his mind"). What happened between the birth of Jesus and this story for his family to think Jesus was crazy?

8. Read John 2:1-11 (Wedding at Cana story).
What's Mary thinking of her son, Jesus, now?
What changed?
9. If you're a parent – can you share a time your child was suffering and you couldn't do anything about it?
How did you get through that situation?
10. Joe shared some things Mary felt at the foot of the cross: heartbroken, confused, scared, helpless, etc.
When have you had similar feelings?
11. Jesus connects Mary with John and John with Mary from the cross.
The text says, "From that time on, this disciple took her into her home." We know Jesus had other brothers and sisters – why did Jesus connect Mary to John and not one of her other children?
12. Is there significance to how Jesus connects John to Mary, "Here is your mother."?
Some would have thought Jesus would say something like, "Take care of my mother." Fuss with that a bit.
13. How hard was it for John to see Jesus, both his friend and teacher, dying on the cross?
List some of the feelings and thoughts John might have had that day at the foot of the cross?
14. What would have been some of John's pushback from Jesus to take Mary home?
(What were some of the voices in John's head he had to fight through to say, "yes" to Jesus' request?)
15. When Jesus asks us to do something – what are some of the loudest voices in our head that want to protest?
16. Jesus from the cross – based on the first three words: Jesus forgives, he saves and now he connects and cares.
If we are truly apprenticing (students) of Jesus – what's the biggest learning so far from Jesus' words?
17. John's gospel after Jesus washed the disciple's feet: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34-35). An old song "*They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love*" echoes these words.
How are we who call ourselves followers (students) of Jesus different than the rest of the world?
Can you give examples of this?
How are we often times just like the rest of the world?
18. Has anyone asked you why you do the things you do as a follower of Jesus (going to church on Sundays, give to the church, serving others, etc.)?
19. How is God asking you to step out of your comfort zone and care for someone?
20. Joe's Lent challenge: To become experts at offering, recognizing, and responding positively to bids for connection.
Which part of this challenge is easiest?
Which part of this challenge is hardest?
21. Share with each other ways you're going to make a bid for connection with someone this week.