

AFFECTION

Before Jesus died on the cross, He chose His beloved disciple, John, to take care of His mother.

John 19:25-27 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.

John was one of the *inner* three disciples, closest to Jesus.

(cf Matthew 17:1; 26:37 Mark 5:37; 13:3)

John referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. *(cf John 13:23-25, 21:7, 21:20)*

We can identify two outstanding qualities that were obvious in John's life that made him the perfect candidate for the task of taking care of Jesus' mother after His death.

These same two qualities are evident in a mother who cares for her children.

1. JOHN WAS A MAN OF COMPASSION.

John stood by Jesus at the foot of the cross; but he also stood supporting Jesus' mother, aunty and Mary Magdalene.

- **Those who know how much they are LOVED, are able to LOVE much.**

Peter knew that Jesus loved John.

Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following... John 21:20 (tlb)

Because John received and responded to Jesus' love, this gave John the ability to love others.

1 Peter 4:8a (niv) Above all, love each other deeply...,

Compassion is simply the outpouring of empathy for those who are suffering or who have suffered.

Mothers have the unique ability to be compassionate to their children when they are in need or when they have done wrong.

1 Peter 4:8 (niv) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

2. JOHN WAS A MAN OF COMMITMENT.

Church history reveals that John was a model of commitment for the early church.

- **There can be no true CALLING of God without a COST to us.**

The proof of love is its capacity to suffer for the object of its affection.

This is also evident of a mother's love and commitment for a child.

Mothers have the ability to lay down their own ambitions for the sake of their child – however this is a choice!

A godly mother's commitment to her children reflects the example of God for His children, revealed by Jesus.

Jesus is our greatest example of being willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others.

The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. John 15:13 (tev)

Jesus' preparedness to be inconvenienced and to fulfil God's will regardless of the personal cost to Himself was clearly evident.

This attitude is also evident in mothers who really love and care for their children.

Question

How prepared are we to carry out the will of God in our life regardless of the personal cost?

Will we be known for our compassion and commitment in following Jesus?