

Week 19
127/238

Transforming Daily
“... women who followed Jesus from Galilee ...”
Matthew 27:55

I've always held to the axiom that if you want to know what parents think they're like, watch them, but if you want to know what they're really like, watch their children. This holds true for my own life, and I'm sure for yours. Traditionally we have held parent baby dedication services on Mother's Day at our church. Just about every year I say that I'm not going to do the services anymore. The leading reason for wanting to discontinue the dedication services is the hypocrisy I've seen in some of the parents who have stood before God and the church to pledge their commitment to rear their child or children in the fear and the admonition of the Lord; and I realize at that very moment that some of the parents who stand before me, pledging their devotion to God, haven't been to church in forever, and that they won't be back to church in just as long or until the dedication of another child. God is not the genie of a bottle; He is the God of the Bible!

Is it any wonder that our churches do not have the impact on our communities that they once had? I'm absolutely convinced that as the family goes, so goes the nation! Dad is the head, but Mom is definitely the hub! You may say that your family is strong and solid, praise God(!), but there are other families for whom we should be praying that cannot make that claim. There are single parent families (both genders for various reasons: divorce, widows, imprisonment, long term service overseas for our country etc.). There are families going through financial crisis. There are families going through family crisis (grandparents, aunts and uncles rearing their children's children and their brother's and sister's children). There are families going through medical crisis, and each of them needs our prayer support.

The children of these families are affected by not only their genetic predisposition, but also their environment. They are being fashioned and molded into what it is they and their parents will allow God to cause them to become (in carline, not 30 minutes ago, one student asked another student if she would see her at church tonight. The second student responded with a dejected look on her face and said, "I don't know." I asked why and she said because of her stepmother). Moms, stepmoms, aunts, and older sisters, whether you like it or not, you have a huge part in forming and shaping how your children and younger siblings grow-up. There is an inherent spiritual quality about you that God chooses to use in that task.

Notice the text in Matthew. The passage distinguishes "women" who followed Jesus from Galilee, but then in the next verse indentifies who some of those women were. They were mothers, but whose mothers? James, Joses, and the sons of Zebedee, to name a few (though some texts vary), were leaders among the disciples of Christ. Is it any wonder that these guys took on that role, but that it was first exemplified in their mothers some of the many women who followed Jesus from Galilee?