

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. March 26th 2006

Mothering Sunday

Luke 1:46 - 56



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

If, following American custom, Mothering Sunday becomes Mother's Day, then ladies who are childless and all gentlemen may well feel themselves excluded. We are of course, quite right to thank God for children, both the children of our own families and the children of our church family. They are entrusted to us that they may learn of the Lord Jesus. But as well as looking down a generation to the children, we can also look up a generation to our own mothers. This is something we can all do, men as well as women, as we thank God for those who brought us into the world. It seems therefore appropriate today to think about the most famous mother of all time, Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus.

1 She was probably a teenager when the angel Gabriel told her she would be the mother of God's Son. After some bewilderment, she accepted the task given to her. "May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:26-38.

2 Mary soon found out that carrying out God's plan is not necessarily easy.

a) The family, especially Joseph, found it hard to believe Mary's account of her pregnancy.

Joseph, however, when convinced, acted most honourably. Matt 1:18-25

b) Joseph and Mary had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, A distance of about 80 miles; a long way for a woman near her time.

c) Then came the flight from Herod into Egypt, and a prolonged stay in a foreign country.

3 The hidden years, while Jesus grew up, form a period of which we know little. Four of Jesus' brothers are mentioned by name, and there is a reference to 'all his sisters', so we should think of our Lord as their eldest of a family of at least eight children. There was plenty of work for Joseph, to support them all, and plenty of work for Mary, in caring for them all. God's call can lead to a hard, unglamorous work, Through these years, Mary kept faith in her son, even although his brothers did not believe in him. John7:5. It took the resurrection to convince them.

4 Mary was present at the crucifixion, until taken away by John. Last of all, we see her with the other disciples in Jerusalem. Tradition says that in due course she died there.

Witness: Questions to discuss



What does 'hearing God's voice' mean? Do we listen? Do we obey? As well as making life's big decisions, what small deeds may God ask us to do?

When obeying God's voice, we run into difficulty, what do we do? How should a Christian behave in the company of those who don't have the same faith?

Can we be trusted to be faithful to God's call, perhaps for a very long time? What can we do to find strength to be steadfast?