

Family at the Cross

John 19:25-27

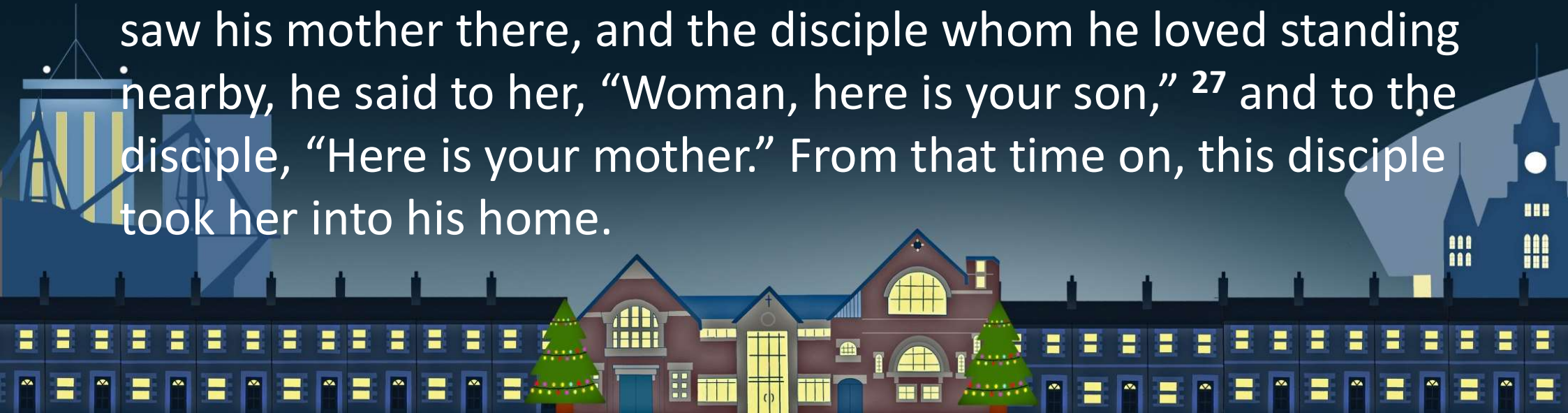
Slides from Ben Gardner's sermon at the morning service, Sunday 31st December 2023



Family at the Cross

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.



Family at the Cross

What difference does the cross make
to your family life?



1. At the Cross: Jesus cares for your earthly family

John 19:25-27

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1. At the Cross: Jesus cares for your earthly family

“My best friends listen to me and give me examples of other’s situations and possible actions to take. They, however, have not experienced alienation from their children. I go to the support group, which is helpful but at the same time, depressing. There just doesn’t seem to be any proven plan to help this situation.”

(Stand Alone Charity Interview)

1. At the Cross: Jesus cares for your earthly family

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2. At the Cross: Jesus calls you to a new family

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2. At the Cross: Jesus calls you to a new family

“When God was merciful to us, we learned to be merciful with one another. When we received forgiveness instead of judgment, we too were made ready to forgive each other. What God did to us, we then owed to others... one is a brother or sister to one another only through Jesus Christ... we have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we really do *have* one another. We have one another completely and for all eternity”

Bonhoeffer, “Life Together”

“This dismisses at the outset every unhappy desire for something more...

Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest... Those who dream of this idealised community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others, and by themselves. They enter the community with their demands, set up their own law, and judge on another and even God accordingly... whatever does not go their way they call a failure. When their idealised image is shattered, they see the community breaking into pieces”

“Because God has laid the only foundation of our community, because God has united us in one body with other Christians in Jesus Christ long before we entered into common life with them, we enter into that life together with other Christians, not as demanders but as thankful recipients”

3. At the Cross: Jesus carries you to the Father

John 19:28-30

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said 'I am thirsty'. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'it is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

3. At the Cross: Jesus carries you to the Father

John 20:17

¹⁷ Jesus said, “do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”