



WYD Reflection 'With Mary'

John 19:25

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Reflection

Mary, you stand at the foot of your son's cross. The scripture tells us you *stand*. You don't swoon or succumb to hysteria. You stand – a position of strength.

You suffer, but you are not embittered.
You grieve, but your spirit is not overcome.
You are in agony, but you do not seek revenge.
You are helpless, but you rely on God's help.
Your faith is tested beyond belief,
yet you still believe.

(pause)

Prayer

Abba, Father. Loving God.
We pray that you will give us the strength to stand like Mary at the cross of suffering, disappointment, and betrayal in our own lives.
At work, at school, at home, or among friends, when we feel sad or helpless, may we not give in to despair or sin, but surrender to the mystery of love for which your Son died and rose.
Amen.



John 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Reflection

Mary, at the foot of the cross all seems lost. And yet, as your son dies a painful death, something new is born.
You become mother, not only to your son but to the beloved disciple, and not only to the beloved disciple, but to every disciple of your son.
Mary, that makes me your son or daughter too. As Jesus dies, a new family of faith is born. I am part of that new family.
I am a living part of that miracle of new birth.

(Pause)

Prayer

Abba, Father. Living God.
You have given us not only a family, but a faith family too. Thank you!
In every moment of our own lives, help us to turn to our family of faith.
Like every family, our church family requires effort and has so many ups and downs.
Yet what a precious gift to have such a family!
Help us to keep loving one another as brothers and sisters,
in the good times and the tough times.
May we look to Mary, our mother and sister in faith, and learn from her who was the first and greatest disciple of your Son Jesus Christ.
Amen.



John 19:28,30

After this, Jesus knew that all was now finished.... Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Reflection

Mary, how did you feel when you saw your son draw his last breath?
In that last breath of agony, of surrender, of completion
your son - your own flesh and blood -

finished his earthly life.

And yet we know it was not the end.
You yourself, Mary, were there at Pentecost.
You witnessed how that last breath of your son gave way to a new breath;
a powerful and ever-living spirit of joy, hope and love; the Spirit of your risen son, the Holy Spirit, transforming the world and sending forth apostles of the risen Lord.

(pause)

Prayer

Abba. Father. Living and loving God.
When we find ourselves short of breath, sighing with tiredness, sadness or grief, help us to breathe in the living breath of your Spirit. the breath of peace, hope and love, the Good News to be shared with all.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.