



Jesus' Relationship with Mary His Mother - Catholics Taking a Closer Look - By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. **Jesus' Relationship with Mary as a Child** - As a child, Jesus was obedient to His parents, Mary and Joseph. Example: The three of them left the temple when Jesus was 12 years old. "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them" (Luke 2:52). Why? Because they had parental authority over Him.

2. **Jesus' Relationship with Mary at the Beginning of His Ministry** - This is when Jesus turned the water into wine. "Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it' This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him" (John 2:2-5,11). Mary turned all the peoples' attention to her son, Jesus.

3. **Was Calling Mary "Woman" Disrespectful?** - One of the 10 Commandments says, "**Honor your father and your mother**" (Exodus 20:12). Jesus was without sin, so He could not have been dishonoring her, He would have broken that commandment. Also, He showed respect by addressing her concern and turning the water into wine. But He was pointing out that their relationship and her authority had changed, which we'll deal with below in point #6.

4. **How Did Jesus Use the Term "Woman" with Women?** - You will see it is obvious that in each of these situations, He is addressing these women as "woman" with honor and tenderness. (1) Faith Mendel's response explains that Jesus used this word in tenderness - (<https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/32492/why-did-jesus-call-his-mother-woman>)

- The woman who was bent over for 18 years, whom He heals (Luke 13:12).
- The Samaritan woman at the well, who tells her whole city about Him (John 4:21).
- The adulterous woman about to be stoned to death, whom He forgives (John 8:10).
- The Gentile woman who's pleading for Him to deliver her daughter from demon-possession, which He did immediately (Matthew 15:22-28).
- Mary Magdalene, who's weeping because she can't find His body (John 20:13-15).
- His mother at His crucifixion (John 19:6).

5. **Jesus Still Greatly Loved and Took Care of Mary as His Mother** - At His crucifixion, even though He was in excruciating pain, He was concerned about His mother. He couldn't let His mother suffer for 6 hours watching Him die (Mark 15:24-34). As the oldest son, it was His responsibility to take care of her, which He could no longer do. "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple (*John the Beloved*), 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*" (John 19:25-27). Yes, Jesus greatly loved His mother and gave her into the care of His closest friend.

6. **So Why Did Jesus Refer to His Mother as "Woman"?** Jesus was both divine, the Son of God, and human, the son of Mary. Once He entered His ministry and then throughout it, He was preaching that the Kingdom of God was at hand. In God's Kingdom, Jesus put his family and those who believed in Him all on the same level, He would show no favoritism. He did not elevate His mother nor his family higher than other believers. Example: "Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.' But He answered them, saying, 'Who is My mother, or My brothers?' And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother'" (Mark 3:33-35). By calling her "woman," He was showing that since He had started His ministry, as the Son of God, He is now elevated above her and she no longer has authority over Him.

7. **What does the Bible say about Mary After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven?** We know that she lived with John. Luke wrote the book of Acts and mentions that Mary was in the upper room when they were praying for and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers" (Acts 1:14). She is not mentioned again by name in the rest of the Bible. Mary had the honor of giving birth to Jesus and raising Him to manhood. After that, she did what John the Baptist did, "**He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all**" (John 3:30-31). They both turned people to Jesus,

then rightly, receded from view.

8. Didn't Mary Ascend Bodily into Heaven? - The Bible never says that she did so. Even John, whom she lived with and who took care of her, never wrote that she did. This teaching never had a biblical basis. It did become popular later. "The early centuries of the Christian tradition were silent on the death of Mary. But **by the seventh and eighth centuries**, the belief in the bodily ascension of Mary into heaven, had taken a firm hold in both the Western and Eastern Churches." (2) (<https://theconversation.com> >5-things-to-know-about-the-mother-of-jesus

9. Isn't Mary the Queen of Heaven? - Jesus called John up to see heavenly visions. He recorded what he saw in the 22 chapters of the book of Revelation. He never saw Mary nor any Queen of Heaven. "Queen of Heaven - The title has long been a tradition, included in prayers and devotional literature and seen in Western art in the subject of the Coronation of the Virgin from the **High Middle Ages**, long before it was given a formal definition status by the Church...in 1954)." (3) (Wikipedia - The Free Encyclopedia, "Queen of Heaven.")

10. To Whom Should We Look, Jesus or Mary? - The Bible says, "**looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of *our* faith, ... and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). The Lord Jesus is our loving Savior. He said, "Come unto Me" (Matthew 11:28,) so we look to Him.

a. Jesus is the only one without sin Who can save and redeem us. - "For all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). "For we do not have a High Priest (*Jesus*) who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). "Therefore He (*Jesus*) is also **able to save to the uttermost** those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25). He is "the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 1:4). "For You were slain, And have **redeemed** us to God by Your blood" (Revelation 5:9).

b. Jesus is the only mediator and advocate, Who's Interceding for Us. - "For *there is* one God and one mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1). An advocate is like a lawyer, who speaks up for you. Jesus Christ "who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us" (Romans 8:34).

c. Jesus is the only one Who loved us so much that He died to pay for our sins. - Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 5:13). Jesus "gave Himself for our sins" (Galatians 1:4). "but He (*Jesus*), having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God ... And their sins and their lawless deeds I (*God*) will remember no more ... Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin" (Hebrews 10:12,17,18). "... and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, He (*God*) is faithful and just, and **will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**" (1 John 1:7, 9).

11. Some People Turn to Mary or to the Saints, Asking Them to Pray for Us. To Whom Should We Turn? There were great men and women of God in the Old Testament, but neither Jesus nor the apostles (the leaders of Jesus' followers) asked them to pray. While Jesus was on earth, He said we **should pray to God** and could address Him as "Our Father" (Matthew 6:6-13). After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the apostles showed that we can also pray to "**Jesus**" or "**the Lord Jesus**" (Acts 7:59, Revelation 22:20, 2 Corinthians 12:8) because Jesus is the Son of God. Whichever we choose is fine. In the Bible, there are no examples of anyone asking Mary or to any of the saints for prayer. Jesus said, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do" (John 14:13). He wants us to ask Him directly.

12. Would you like to receive Jesus as Your Lord and Savior? You may now. **Suggested Prayer:** "Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God, that You died to pay for my sins, and that as my mediator and advocate, You are interceding for and speaking up for me. I trust in You for my salvation because I cannot work for it nor earn it myself. I repent of my sins, and confess You as my Lord and Savior. Please, help me live in Your will. In Your name I pray. AMEN!"

Name _____ **Date** _____ **You're invited to visit our church.**

NationTakers Ministries

856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118 - Mail P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127 1(415) 337-7027 - info@nationtakers.com - www.nationtakers.com
Join us on Sunday in person or on Livestream at 11 am PT on Facebook on YouTube.

www.facebook.com/nationtakers - www.youtube.com/nationtakers
We sign for the Deaf.

