

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

Grace and Peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen!

When my son Scott, who is 45, was about 3 years old I took him to a flea market in Chicago that was an outdoor theater and there by the big screen was a playground. Well of course as you may have figured Scott wanted to play in the playground but I had my eye on an item I wanted to look at. There was a lady in the playground with her child and I asked her if she would keep an eye on Scott while I went to look at the item. She said she would and so I left him with her.

I was gone for about 15 minutes and when I got back to the playground, I didn't see Scott. I asked the lady where my son went and she told me he wanted to go to be with his daddy.

I started to look for him shouting loudly, "Scott, Scott where are you?"

I looked east and west, north and south, but no Scott. I was frantic, I asked everyone I could if they saw a little boy wearing a blue jacket. One person said he saw him going toward the back of the market. I ran to see if I could find him with tears in my eyes and feeling so stupid for leaving him to play alone.

Finally, I saw a small boy with a blue jacket walking hand in hand with another boy about 12 walking to the back fence of the closed in theater toward the housing area near a busy street; maybe the older boy was taking him to his house to ask his mother what to do. I hope that was why they were walking that way. I can visualize it still today. I called out his name, "Scott, Scott!" and they turned around as I ran up to them grabbed Scott in my arms and hugged him saying, "I'm sorry for leaving you," and he said "you're hurting me daddy." But I was so happy and relieved to have him in my arms again.

So, in our gospel lesson today, I know how Mary and Joseph felt as they looked for their son Jesus after missing him for three days after leaving the Jerusalem festival and asking their relatives and friend if they had seen Jesus.

But after three days of searching, they found him in the Temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions and all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and his questions.

But when Mary his mother asked him, "child why have you treated us like this?" "Look your father and I have been searching for you with great anxiety." He said to them, "why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them! His Mother Mary treasured all these things in her heart.

Did Mary know what was to happen to her son Jesus did she realize what was to be?

She wanted her son to be safe and sound to be like all the children around the home to learn the trade of carpentry from Joseph his father. Did Mary actually know what it would like for Jesus?

There is a Christian song sung originally by Michael English that was also song by others after that, and can be considered a Christmas song, called “Mary Did You Know?” I’m not going to sing it to you today, but maybe someday when we’re a choir again. Today I will speak it. It goes:

*Mary, did you know that your
Baby boy would some day walk
on water, Mary did you know
That your baby boy will save our
Sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new? This
Child that you delivered will soon
Deliver you.*

*Mary did you know that you baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby
Boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has
Walked where angels trod? When you
Kiss your little baby, you’ve kiss the
Face of God?
The bind will see, the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again, the lame
will leap, the dumb will speak,
the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary did you know that your baby
Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Will One day rule the nations?
Did you know that you baby boy is*

*Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding,
Is the Great I Am!*

Well, I ask you, do you think Mary knew? She was a mother that loved her boy and only wanted what all mothers want, her child to be safe and strong, to have a nice life. She wanted Jesus to work with his father Joseph to learn carpentry. Right?

She knew Jesus was special; she knew how he was conceived. A thought that she pondered could have been a dream!

She loved Jesus and knew he was special. And she pondered all this in her heart. She had him at home for 30 years until the beginning of his ministry when he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan when God open the Heavens and said, "this is my Son the beloved." And a dove came down and went into Jesus. From 30 to 33 He performed his ministry 3 ½ years. While His mother Mary had him to herself for 30 years.

Did Mary know? Yes, she knew but like at the wedding at Cana she knew Jesus could be great and he was when he turned water into wine, his first miracle.

Mary finally knew and all she pondered in her heart was realized when at Calvary when Jesus hung upon the cross, and as he looked down and saw his mother and saw his beloved Disciple John and said, "John, this is your mother. Woman, this is your son!" In other words, take care of each other love each other and be together.

And when Jesus died, she cried as a mother would cry for her child who is gone. Mary did you know? Yes, she knew, she knew indeed.

Amen!