

# ***“Mother & A Thief”***

3/29/15  
John 19

*Balancing the needs of self, call, celebrity, family and others.*

Easter is our celebration of God’s son, Jesus Christ dying on a cross as the final sacrifice for the sins of the world. It also celebrates our conviction that He rose from a grave showing His deity as well as the defeat of sin and its consequences. Christians believe that through this act, Christ offers forgiveness of sins, the ability to overcome sin and the certain hope of eternal life to those who believe.

Today, as many celebrate “Palm Sunday”, we are challenged by the focus and compassion of Jesus through all these emotional days.

## **IN THE GARDEN (Luke 22) JESUS,**

- Acknowledged and addressed His **OWN** feelings.
- Affirmed His **CALL** and God’s **WILL**.

## **ON PALM SUNDAY (John 12) JESUS,**

- **RECEIVED** the praise and adulation.

## **AT THE CROSS JESUS, IN HIS OWN (John 12, Luke 23) CRISIS,**

- Dealt with securing his **MOTHER’S** future.
- Showed **GRACE** to the seeking **THIEF**.

In examining the Easter story, one must encounter His own sin and the need for salvation. Additionally we should be moved to:

- Be **BALANCED** in our daily lives.  
(Seeing our own needs, our call and the needs of loved ones)
- Be able to “**ASSESS**” a situation well and respond appropriately.

## TAKING IT HOME

No focus however demanding or Divine, should take away from our compassion for our loved ones and for those in need of God’s grace.

As big as His task remains, Jesus Christ still sees us in the crowd and thieves on crosses.

He also challenges us in the midst of crisis to show His character

- See mother and
- Forgive the thief!