

## *Happy Mother's Day!*

Have you ever ridden a donkey? I haven't, but I can't imagine it would not be very comfortable. Yet it is believed that Mary rode upon a donkey as she and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem, carrying in her womb, our Lord Jesus.

Thirty three years later she watched her son, seated on a donkey, as he entered into Jerusalem amid cries of Hosanna. How proud she must have been seeing her son being recognized as the Messiah. Then, only days later, she witnessed the most horrific thing a mother could ever see, his death upon the cross.

The heartache had to have been gut wrenching. As he was beaten, she felt every blow. As the nails were pounded into his hands and feet, she winced in pain for him. As he hung on the cross, blood streaming from his body, tears were streaming down her face. As his limp, lifeless body was taken from the cross; her life felt like it had ended, too. The depth of her sorrow had no definition.

Then, there was the empty tomb and the realization that Jesus had risen. Joy and elation was felt in the place that had been filled with sorrow, to see that the prophecy had been fulfilled, to know that her son lived.

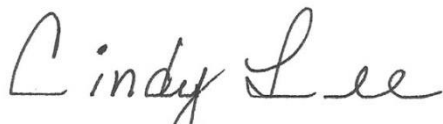
Mary was carried to the birthplace of Jesus on a donkey. Jesus was carried to the city of his death on a donkey. Between those two events, Mary had raised her son. She had nursed him, taught him to walk and talk, watched him grow into a young man, and loved him with all her heart. All the while, knowing that he would be taken from her to save humanity from itself.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

Mother's day is this month. Not all women have given birth. Yet, all women are mothers. Motherhood is not just the bearing of a child; it is born of the love in our hearts for others. The love for nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and children in general makes every woman a mother.

Regardless of whom we are or how we were raised, if you are a mother of children or a mother born through loving others, as we think of and remember our mothers, remember the mother who rode upon a donkey to bring salvation to us all.

Blessing to you on Mother's Day and always,



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