

A NAMELESS MOM MAY 12, 2019

ROMANS 16:13 (NLT)

Most readers view this chapter as a long list of peoples' names that are difficult to pronounce. Actually, it's a chapter of personal greeting and tribute given by Paul to those he valued and appreciated, one being the mother of Rufus. The Bible lists the names of many mothers whose lives and faith have been profiled to inspire moms today: Sarah, Rebekah, Jochebed, Hannah, Elizabeth and Mary. It also lists some nameless moms: Samson's, the Syrophenician woman, and the mother of Rufus.

When we think of Paul, we think of his: conversion, revelations, hearing unspeakable words, writings, and persecutions, but not many think about why he would consider Rufus' mom being like a mother to him. This statement raises some questions:

- Who is Rufus' mom? Where and when did they meet? How did they form such a bond? Why would he consider her being like a mother?

MARK 15:21 (NLT)

Rufus was the son of Simon of Cyrene who was forced to carry Jesus' cross beam up to Calvary. Rufus' mom was Simon's wife. It's believed that Simon was a Jewish convert from Lybia in Northern Africa who was attending Passover. Seeing Jesus, watching His crucifixion, hearing His last statements and seeing the events of that day, caused Simon to convert to Christianity. He converted his wife and children and they all became active members of the Roman church. Alexander and Rufus became two of the greatest believers of the first century church.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Simon carried the cross beam, his wife cared for Paul like a mother and their sons were powerful witnesses for Christ.

WHAT ABOUT PAUL'S MOM? PHILIPPIANS 3:4-8

Paul suffered the loss of many things for Christ. Having such a strict Jewish heritage, it's highly probable that Paul's Jewish family viewed him as dead after his conversion. **ACTS 23:16** does mention a nephew who helped save his life. Even Jesus said His followers might lose their families, **MARK 10:29-30**. From the time of His baptism in **ACTS 9**, to the writing of **ROMANS** some 20 years later, the mother of Rufus was like a mother to him.

THE POSSIBILITIES

1. Maybe when others viewed him as a terrorist who burned down houses and had Christians killed, she stood by his side and encouraged him, cared for him, and ministered to him.
2. Maybe when every other door was shut, the mother of Rufus opened hers and treated him as one of her own.
3. Maybe she had a home along Paul's missionary route in Asia Minor.
4. Maybe she had a special room with a warm bed just for him.
5. Maybe she cooked some of his favorite meals to nourish him with.
6. Maybe she lovingly applied ointment to his bloody body when he was whipped and beaten with rods, or stoned and left for dead.

THE REWARD – HEBREWS 6:10 (NLT)

The mother of Rufus was privileged to be like a mother to the most significant convert in the history of the church, and we don't even know her name. Her boys grew up to be men who loved and followed Jesus. There is no greater reward than that of knowing your children and grandchildren will follow Jesus and be with you in glory.

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-5