

# “MARY”

## (THE MOTHER OF JESUS)

**Text:** Luke 1:5 – 13; 26-38

**Subject:** “Voices From The Mother Of Jesus That Speak To Us All”

### Introduction

- ◆ Luke (chapter 1) is an amazing revelation (of the visitation of an angel).
- ◆ How Gabriel visited both Zacharias and Mary.
- ◆ How God has a plan that includes ordinary people.
- ◆ How you and I can be used of the Lord if we are willing to cooperate.

### (Mary’s Visitation From God Has An Awesome Setting:) (Vs. 26 & 27)

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin named Mary”.

**Question:** Who sent the angel to Mary?

**Answer:** God did!

**Question:** Where did Gabriel just come from?

**Answer:** He just came from delivering a message to Zacharias. (v. 11)

**Question:** What’s the big deal about Gabriel visiting Zacharias before he visits Mary?

**Answer:** Because God wants to encourage Mary with the first miracle of Elizabeth and Zacharias having a child in old age.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ God wants to prepare Mary (and you and me).
- ◆ God wants to use Mary (and you and me).
- ◆ God wants to encourage Mary (and you and me).

### (So God visits Zacharias and Elizabeth and teaches us something)

**Question:** Who were Zacharias and Elizabeth?

**Answer:** A godly couple with a broken heart?

#1. They were spiritual (v. 6)

- ◆ They were righteous before God (or they sought the Lord and lived to please Him).
- ◆ They were obedient before God (or they walked in submission to His will).
- ◆ They were “blameless” (which means: not that they were perfect, but that they lived in such a way that no one could charge them with open sin).

#2. They were broken hearted (v. 7) (Why?)

- ◆ They were childless (which was like a curse in that day).

**In Fact:** A Jew whose wife could not bear children was thought to be cut off from God.

- ◆ They were elderly (and all hope of having children was behind them).

#3. They were faithful (vs. 8-10)

**Question:** What is Zacharias doing in v. 8?

**Answer:** He is being faithful to God in his ministry.

- ◆ He’s not pouting, sour and grumbling.
- ◆ He’s not mad at God because of unanswered prayer.
- ◆ He’s not “holding out” or “on strike” until God does what he wants.

**(Instead, He’s Serving God)**

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- ◆ He was a priest and served in the temple.
- ◆ He was burning incense upon the altar (which symbolized that the sacrifices and prayers were being received by God).
- ◆ He was faithful in his worship and service (despite the problems of his age and his unfulfilled expectations of no children).

#4. They were rewarded (vs. 11-13)

**Question:** What's the reward?

**Answer:** Prayers answered by God.

**Question:** What was Zacharias doing?

**Answer:** (V. 10) He was praying as any other day.

**Question:** What's the big deal of verse 11?

**Answer:** The angel of the Lord, appeared, standing, (notice) "On the right side of the altar of incense".

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Zacharias is pouring out his heart to God.
- ◆ Zacharias has been praying for years and years.
- ◆ Zacharias has refused to resent God's wisdom.
- ◆ Zacharias stayed sweet regardless of the wait.
- ◆ And, it was while he was praying, that God met the need and sent the answer.

**(Does God Find You Like Zacharias And Elizabeth?)**

#1. Are you a man or woman that is *spiritual*?

- ◆ Are you walking righteous, obedient and blameless before God?
- ◆ Is Jesus Lord in every area of your life?

#2. Are you *broken hearted*?

- ◆ Have you been saddened because of some unfulfilled expectation?
- ◆ Have things not worked out as you had planned (or God's timing differs from yours?)

#3. Are you *faithful in your service*?

- ◆ Even though you've been disappointed (you still serve)?
- ◆ You're not "holding out" "on strike", sour or mad at God (no grumbles or murmurs).

#4. Are you *praying*?

- ◆ Ready for the Lord to send the answer at the incense altar of prayer?
- ◆ Willing to pray and pray and pray (knowing that God is working even when you cannot see Him?)
- ◆ Are you willing to pray and seek the Lord, based on God's credibility instead of your visibility?

**(Now, An Encouraging Word)**

**Question:** Why are Zacharias and Elizabeth in Luke chapter 1?

**Question:** Why did God record their miracle of conception of John the Baptist?

**Question:** Why did God wait so many years to answer their prayer?

**Question:** Why open Elizabeth's womb at the same time her cousin Mary would conceive?

**(Discover God's Perfect Timing)**

- ◆ In v. 26, God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary.
- ◆ In v. 28, the angel declared to Mary "Thou art highly favored".
- ◆ In v. 29, Mary was stricken with fear and shock.
- ◆ In v. 30, "Mary, you have found favor with God".
- ◆ In v. 31, "You're going to have a boy called Jesus".
- ◆ In v. 32, "He'll be called the Son of the Highest".

- ◆ In v. 33, “Of His kingdom there shall be no end”.

**(And How Does Mary Respond In Verse 34?)**

**“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man”?**

**Question:** How did Mary respond to the angel’s words?

- Answer:**
- ◆ She was puzzled and needed more information.
  - ◆ She was single and not sexually active. (A virgin)

**Question:** And how does God answer Mary’s troubled heart in verse 34?

**Answer:** With an encouraging word in verses 35-37:

Verse 35, “The Holy Spirit will conduct the immaculate conception and oversee the process Mary”.

Verse 36, “I’ve got an encouraging word that will help you to believe Mary”.

**(What Is It?)**

- ◆ “Your cousin Elizabeth (who is beyond childbearing age) is now six months pregnant”.
- ◆ “And, if God can do a miracle for Elizabeth, then God can do a miracle for you”.
- ◆ “Mary, go see your cousin and remember this, (v. 37) “For with God, nothing shall be impossible”.

**(But Pastor)**

- ◆ That was Mary, what about me?
- ◆ How can God use me in His plan today?
- ◆ What is it that enables God to work out His plan in my life like Mary?

**(3 Trademarks Of A Real Disciple)**

**Quality #1. “A Surrendered Will”**

**Question:** What did Mary say after the angel told her two things?

- #1. “You will birth the Son of God”. (and) #2. “You need to go see your cousin”.

**Question:** How did Mary respond?

(V. 38) “And Mary said, behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy Word, and the angel departed from her”. (Mission accomplished)

**Question:** What was Mary’s response to the will of God?

**Answer:** “Be it unto me according to Thy word”.

- ◆ Even though she was young and would have to be in secret.
- ◆ Even though the espousal period was one year, and adultery resulted in stoning.
- ◆ Even though people would criticize her for being pregnant (while still engaged).

#1. Mary surrendered her will to God’s will (and gave up her rights).

#2. Mary was willing to die to herself and do what was right (instead of what was convenient).

**(What’s The Application?)**

- ◆ Am I willing to absolutely surrender myself to God?
- ◆ Am I willing to obey God, even without answers to all of my questions?
- ◆ Is there any part of my life that I have yet to surrender to God?

(But what about my life, and my plans and my goals?) (v. 38) “Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord”

**Fact:** The word “handmaid” (DOULE) means: “Slave girl”.

**Fact:** Mary was saying that she was a bond slave, or a servant of God.

**Fact:** A servant is one who advances others at the expense of themselves without complaint, doesn’t need to be “thanked” for their service and cares less who gets the credit.

**Quality #2. “An Obedient Heart”**

**Question:** “What happened after Mary said “Yes Lord”?”

**Answer:** She took the next step in the process:

(V. 39), “And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah, and entered into the house of Zacharias”.

**Fact:** Mary obeyed God when 3 things were against her:

- #1. She was an unwed mother and who would believe her story? (Luke 1:26; Matt. 1:18)
- #2. She would have to face Joseph and chance his rejection and shock of a broken trust. (Matthew 1:19, 20)
- #3. She faced the threat of being condemned to death for adultery. (Deuteronomy 22:23)

**(Yet In The Face Of Adversity)**

- ◆ She is willing to obey God, and add works to her faith!
- ◆ She is willing to please God above all others.
- ◆ She is willing to trust God to work out all of the details outside of her control.

**(What’s The Application?)**

- ◆ Am I willing to obey God, and then trust the Lord with the consequences to follow?
- ◆ Am I willing to give up my present plans, for a future reward?
- ◆ Am I willing to lay aside every weight and sin, to experience the joy of a clear conscience?
- ◆ Am I willing to obey God and do what He’s been telling me to do?

**(By The Way)**

Verse 39 says, “Mary arose and went into Judah with haste”

- ◆ Eager to follow the angels directions.
- ◆ Eager to see the miracle for herself.
- ◆ Eager to meet Elizabeth face to face.

**(With Haste Means:)**

- ◆ Don’t put off till tomorrow what God had told you to do today. (repeat)

**(With Haste Means:)**

- ◆ “My progress in God tomorrow will go no further than my obedience takes me today”.

**Quality #3. A “Grateful Spirit”**

(Vs. 46-55) Is known as Mary’s song”

- ◆ In (v. 46), She “magnifies the Lord”.
- ◆ The word “Magnify” (MEGALUNEI) means: “To declare the greatness of”.
- ◆ The idea is habitual, or, Mary continued on to magnify the Lord (it was her constant practice).
- ◆ In (v. 47) She “rejoices in God my Savior” (which means:)
- ◆ Mary praised God with all of her heart!
- ◆ Mary believed that God was in control!
- ◆ Mary trusted God with what she couldn’t see!

**(What Did She Praise God For?)**

**Why Was She So Grateful?**

#1. She was grateful for God’s Salvation (v. 47)

- ◆ She calls God “My Savior”.
- ◆ She was a sinner saved by grace and needed to trust the Lord for her salvation.
- ◆ She rejoices that God saw her need and saved her.

**(What’s The Application?)**

- ◆ There is not a sinner alive that God will not save if they will only ask Him to save them.

#2. She was grateful for *God's Compassion* (v. 48)

- ◆ "For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden".
- ◆ Mary recognized where she came from (to the world she was poor, obscure, unknown, insignificant and without value).
- ◆ The words "low estate" mean that Mary was considered the least within her own household.

**(What's The Application?)**

- ◆ That no matter how low you might be (and),
- ◆ No matter how nothing you may feel,
- ◆ God cares enough to reach down to us, take us by the hand, lift us up where we belong, and give us purpose and meaning in life.

#3. She was grateful for *God's Power* (vs. 49-52)

(V. 40) He is "mighty" (a miracle worker).

(V. 50) He is "merciful" (in sending us a Savior).

(V. 51) He is "strong" (able to do great things).

(V. 52) He is "still in charge" (over all those who are proud and humble).

#4. She was grateful for *God's Deliverance* (vs. 53, 54)

- ◆ (In v. 53), God fills those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.
- ◆ In (v. 54), God remembers His mercy, as Israel was desperate for mercy and deliverance. (Why?)
- ◆ Because Israel was enslaved by the Romans.
- ◆ God's people were frantic in their search for a deliverer.
- ◆ And Mary proclaims, Jesus is the answer to deliver you from the tyranny of satan, sin, and self destruction!

**Conclusion**

**Ask:** Like Mary, are you finding it difficult to understand all that God is doing in your life?

**Ask:** Like Zacharias and Elizabeth, are you praying for something and the answer has yet to come?

**Ask:** Like Israel, are you under the power of some sin, and need to be delivered from it?

**Ask:** Do you want to grow and make progress with God (and not waste your time?)

**(The Key?)**

#1. A Surrendered Will

#2. An Obedient Heart

#3. A Grateful Spirit

**AMEN!**

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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