

Christmas 2017⁽¹⁾ - A Young Woman Who Believed the Impossible

What does this reveal about Mary?

Luk 1:26-56 ESV In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27 to a virgin betrothed** to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

- **She was young** (most girls in that culture were married between the ages of 12 & 16)
- **She was a virgin** (she maintained sexual purity before the LORD)

She was not aware of how the LORD saw her

28 And he came to her and said, "**Greetings, O favored one, the *Lord is with you!***" 29 But she was **greatly troubled at the saying**, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for **you have found favor with God.**

- She was young and had a heart TOWARD the LORD (virginity)
- **BUT She didn't comprehend how the LORD LOOKED AT HER**
- **And she didn't understand what the LORD wanted to do in her life**

Do you ever wonder what God thinks of you?

- Much of Christian teaching is **focused on our heart TOWARD Him (things I must do or NOT do)** - like Mary (she was a virgin)
- **BUT the Bible also reveals God and THE FOCUS OF HIS HEART TOWARD US**
- It is possible, like **Mary to be morally faithful** to the LORD, and **yet not comprehend the LORD's FAVOR**

Here are just a few scriptures

- Psa 139:17-18 ESV How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.
- Son 2:10 ESV My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, **my beautiful one**, and come away,
- Eph 1:6 KJV To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath **made us accepted in the beloved.**
- Rom 8:38-39 ESV For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The LORD reveals his plan for her

31 And behold, ***you will conceive in your womb and bear a son***, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be **great** and will be called **the Son of the Most High**. And the Lord God will give to him **the throne of his father David**, 33 and he will **reign over the house of Jacob forever**, and of his **kingdom there will be no end.**"

FIRST THE IMPOSSIBLE - **"You will conceive in your womb and bear a son"**

THEN SOMETHING TOO WONDERFUL TO BELIEVE - **Her child is the long awaited MESSIAH**

She is unable to grasp it - Yet God is moving her to believe the impossible

34 And Mary said to the angel, "***How will this be, since I am a virgin?***" 35 And the angel answered her, "***The Holy Spirit*** will come upon you, and ***the power of the Most High*** will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 ***For nothing will be impossible with God.***"

- How will this be, since **I am a virgin**
- God is moving her to believe the impossible
- Just like the 5 loaves and 2 fish (we often see life ONLY from OUR perspective and not Gods)

Nothing will be impossible with God - GK = Nothing G3956 G4487[Rhema] G3756

- A better translation - (WEB) **everything spoken by God** is possible."

Mary transitioned from - "How will this be?" to Believing for the impossible

38 And Mary said, "***Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.***" And the angel departed from her. 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 **And blessed is she *who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.***" 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the ***humble estate of his servant.***

1. Mary saw herself as **"the servant of the LORD"** - what He wants is **PRIORITY**
2. **She was willing to yield** to what the LORD said - **"Let it be *to me* according to your word"**
3. She **believed there would be a fulfillment** of what the LORD had spoken to her
4. Humility