

Mary Did You Know?

Luke 1:26-35 - The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

There is a song written by **Mark Lowry** entitled, **"Mary Did You Know" that** I have loved since he wrote it in 1991 and it goes like this:

***Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you've kissed your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Mary did you know the blind will see***

***The deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb
O Mary did you know that your baby boy was Lord of all Creation
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would one day rule the nation
Did you know that your baby boy
Is Heavens perfect lamb
And this sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I AM,....O Mary***

The angel told Mary that she was **highly favored**, that the Lord was with her, and that she was a blessed woman. We are going to talk about Mary for a while today.

For those who have come from Catholic backgrounds, you know there is a strong emphasis placed on Mary within the Catholic church.

We feel **their emphasis on Mary** over the centuries has been much too strong and here is why:

The Worship of Mary - *Mary is somebody who should be respected and appreciated for her place in Biblical history*

- However, we cannot and must not **worship her** or **pray to her** as the Catholic doctrine upholds.

Mary was a human vessel used by God to bring *Jesus* into this earth by giving Him a physical body.

- **Mary** was on the physical side of that union - **The Holy Ghost** was on the spiritual side.
- **Mary was chosen by God**, and she was very special.
- **Mary was the mother of Jesus**.
- **Mary raised Jesus** to the Bar Mitzvah age of twelve.

When **Mary finished as a mother**, raising her son **to maturity** to be on his own

- **Mary's appointed task** as unique as it was, **had an expiration date**.
- She **fulfilled her specific mission** when **Jesus launched on his own**.

When Mary was finished raising Jesus, she was just like all other women who followed Jesus.

Something very important to keep in mind is that followers of Jesus did not worship his mother.

- They knew better.
- Even Mary herself believed in Him, even though she raised him!

Catholic history contains a controversy in their doctrine in ***the declaration of Mary*** as a part of the Godhead.

In recent years, the Pope tried to name Mary as a co-redeemer with Christ.

- **Not all Catholics** are bad people, or even believe this way.
- It is important to understand that there are many catholic people all over the world **who are becoming Born Again**.
- They are being **delivered from** that false religious system.

When we look at the ancient history of man among pagans,

- We realize that most people worshipped something out of an innate desire to do so.
- Many not realizing that **God put that desire in all of us** for a reason.

The devil's desire is to draw the attention of worship away from Jesus

- He doesn't care how he accomplishes it,
- Just so the One True God **doesn't** get the glory and honor.
- **If the devil can influence** the world to worship Mary instead,
- **he has accomplished his task**.

The devil knows that Mary can't save you and that Mary can't answer your prayer - So that way the devil can keep people lost in their sins.

An old Sunday School song goes like this: ***"The devil is a sly old fox - If I could catch him, I'd put him in a box - And lock the door and throw away the key for all the mean tricks he's played on me."***

Let's take a close look at the real character of Mary:

Mary was about 16 years old when she became pregnant.

This was normal in those days for a young lady to get married at 14 or 15 and get pregnant at such a young age.

Mary was probably *much more mature* than many girls her age today due to her upbringing and the way her parents taught her, as ***it was common to teach responsibility*** at a very young age back then. **Life was not easy for these girls.**

Mary asks a question that we want to compare with another character, and **that is Zacharias.**

Zacharias' response to the angel was What? How can I know this!?

- **Zacharias' question questioned the validity and truth** of the angel -
- Who was sent by God with a message.
- In essence, **Zacharias was questioning God.**
- So, there was unbelief in Zacharias' question.

Mary's question was, In Luke 1:34 - ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Mary's question was a practical request to know how this would be carried out.

- There was no unbelief in **Mary's question.**
- **Mary asked** a practical question, and **the angel answered her:**
- **"The Holy Spirit will come on you."**

This is a great answer for anything that God would call any of us to do!

Luke 1:35-38 - ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[Ⓜ] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

What is Mary really saying?

She is saying, ***"I am overwhelmed!"***

- I have **never** been visited by an angel before!
 - I have **never** been with a man
 - I **don't know** the science of what is going to happen to me -
 - But I **just believe** this whole thing **is from God**,
 - So, ***"Let it be to me according to your word."***
- Mary is taking all the pressure of self-performance off herself.

Mary is simply saying, ***"God, here I am, a willing vessel. Do in me what you want to do."***

- ***This is the kind of spirit that God is looking for!***
- Now isn't that the best that any of us can do?
- I can't do what I am doing by myself, God must do it through me.

You can say, **'Lord, whatever you have in mind for me, do that.**

- I am open to that!
- God is **not** asking you to do it all by yourself.
- At the same time, **don't sit around ignorant and unlearned**, never trying to improve your serve.

So, obey 2 Timothy 2:15 - ***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.***

We must constantly be **preparing ourselves** for the next level by faith.

- The actual transition is going to be by the Holy Ghost working through us.
- So, in essence **Mary said, "Let it be"**

When you say **yes to God**, you will arise and start moving.

Everyone you meet will be **affected by your** words and actions.

Mary then did what I am sure she wishes all those ***who worship her would do:***
She worshiped the Lord.

This is where **Mary's greatness really shines** because she was clothed with humble worship.

Luke 1:46-50 - Mary's Song - ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

This young peasant girl is rejoicing and no doubt dancing before the Lord, **with joy and worship.**

- **Perhaps this is the very moment that she conceived by the Holy Ghost**
- It is right here that she really believes, and it sinks way down inside of her

The Holy Ghost did not abusively jump on Mary and take advantage of her, **nor will the Lord** do that to you or me.

Mary remained faithful all the way until the end.

Mary who was favored of God in such a way that He chose her to incubate the seed of the Holy Spirit and give birth to the only begotten Son of God...

She had the opportunity to feel like she already had it made

- **She would not be so foolish** to think that she too did not need God's promise of His Spirit living within.

Since Mary possessed such a pure heart,

- She felt her own deep need to follow with the rest of the seekers -
- Into the upper room to pray -
- That she also would be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Mary was totally free of the damaging and dangerous religious spirit that infects so many churches and Christians

- **Who** think they have **some kind of corner on God** because of their family heritage.
- **Mary knew better** than to think **that she did not also** need to be in the upper room just because she was Jesus' mother.
- **She went, and she was glad!**

Here is the mother of Jesus who in essence said, **'I am going to be there!'**

She went to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and was there when it happened.

CLOSE:

Acts 2:1-4 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

This means that everybody who was listed in chapter 1 was seated in chapter 2.

Mary was there and the Bible says, ***“And His brothers.”***

Why is that important?

Because these guys knew Jesus better than anybody!

- These were the guys who played with him as kids.
- They grew up with him.
- They had already seen sides to him that nobody else had ever seen.

If Jesus Christ would have been a fraud, his own brothers would not have been there seeking the Holy Ghost.

- They too were baptized with the Holy Spirit, each one of them.

Where are you today!

May I tell you that: The greatest gift God ever gave to us is the gift of Himself

It did not stop with Him coming in the flesh through Mary

The better portion came when He filled us with His own Spirit and nature, and character.

Let us enter His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with Praise right now!

MARY DID YOU KNOW???