

The Character of Mary — 12/19/21

TEXT- Luke 1:26-38 *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

INTRO – Mary is called the handmaid of the Lord.

I. Mary's Heritage

A. A descendent of Judah

(The house and lineage of David)

B. Espoused to Joseph

C. Cousin to Elizabeth mother of John the Baptist

D. She was chosen by God and conceived by the Holy Spirit

Isa 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

II. Mary's Character

A. Moral purity. Isaiah 7:14

If Mary was not a virgin, she could not have been the mother of Christ.

B. Humility. Luke 1:38

It was John Riskin who said, "I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility.

Booker T. Washington, shortly after he took over the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, was walking in an exclusive section of town when he was stopped by a wealthy white woman. Not knowing the famous Mr. Washington by sight, she asked if he would like to earn a few dollars by chopping wood for her. Because he had no pressing business at the moment, Professor Washington smiled, rolled up his sleeves, and proceeded to do the humble chore she had requested. When he was finished, he carried the logs into the house and stacked them by the fireplace. A little girl recognized him and later revealed his identity to the lady.

The next morning the embarrassed woman went to see Mr. Washington in his office at the Institute and apologized profusely. "It's perfectly all right, Madam," he replied. "Occasionally I enjoy a little manual labor. Besides, it's always a delight to do something for a friend." She shook his hand warmly and assured him that his meek and gracious attitude had endeared him and his work to her heart. Not long afterward she showed her admiration by persuading some wealthy acquaintances to join her in donating thousands of dollars to the Tuskegee Institute.

The apostle Paul revealed his humility –

- I am the least of the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:9

- I am the very least of all the saints. Ephesians 3:8
- I am the foremost of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

God said of Mary she was **highly favored** but she saw herself as **the handmaid of the Lord.**

C. Strength of character:

- Traveled on a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem when 9 months pregnant.
- Giving birth in a stable.
- Going to Egypt.
- Her loss of a good reputation.

D. Faith in God. Vs. 45

Kept all these things—what the angel had told her. We need to keep the Bible and its promises in our hearts.

E. Highly favored vs.28

F. Submissive and Obedient vs. 38

G. Magnified the Lord vs. 46

III. Mary's Calling and Purpose

A. Visited by the angel Gabriel

B. Conceived the Savior by the Spirit of God

Luke 1:37 *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

Mary did not understand how this could happen. The angel told her it would be accomplished by the Holy Ghost overshadowing her. This would be a miracle.

C. Gave birth to the Son of God

D. Raised a family

Mat 13:55-56 *Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?*

Gal 2:9 *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

E. Worshipped

1. Attended the feast in the Jerusalem

2. Brought a sacrifice for the priests in the temple

F. She was at the cross

G. She was at the upper room

H. She followed Jesus throughout His ministry

CONCL – Mary needed a Savior like everyone else. She recognized Jesus was the Son of God and believed on Him for Salvation.