



SERMON SINGLES

Mother Like Mary

Luke 1:26-38

INTRODUCTION

Billy Graham once said, "The influence of a mother upon the lives of her children cannot be measured. They know and absorb her example and attitudes when it comes to questions of honesty, temperance, kindness, and industry." This is such an important reminder for all of us as we celebrate our mothers this time of year. And in light of the fact that we learn so much from our mothers, I figured it would be wise for us to look at the story of Mary, the mother of our Savior, because there is so much we can learn and glean from her story. So in this week's message, I want us to take a look at some of the specific takeaways from Mary's life.

KEY POINTS

1. Your story is always connected to your family's story.

In Luke 1:26, we learn about Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, and how she was pregnant with John the Baptist. The story of Jesus' birth really didn't have to include a preamble to John, the Baptist's birth, but it did...and for a very good reason. They are part of the puzzle, which is your life. You don't exist separately. You are connected, on both your father's side and your mother's side. Their story is part of yours, too. Where they come from effects where you are now and possibly be going in the days to come, so it's important to learn from them.

2. You must prepare for God's interruptions.

Sometimes those interruptions make themselves known in our families. Things happen when we aren't ready for them and sometimes things don't happen when we want them to. Every year, Mother's Day is a great day for many, and a sad day for others. The loss of your mom or the unanswered prayer to be a mother reveals itself on this day. Grief is real from ones you have lost and experiences yet unrealized. That's an interruption from God. Elizabeth had lost hope of ever being a mother. Mary, undoubtedly was not ready to be one. God's timing is not always ours, is it? When it's not, everything He does seems to be an interruption in our lives. It should be all right to us for God to orchestrate our lives. Why? Because your story is still in process.

NOTES

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

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3. You must submit to God's will in your life, especially when it's hard.

I love what Mary says in Luke 1:38: "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. 'May it be to me according to your word.' Then the angel left her." It was hard for Mary when God's timing didn't align with her presuppositions. It was anxiety-inducing that people could count and she would be tempted to receive shame. And it was worrisome that she had no control over her child's future. But even then, her life was lived under submission to the Father's plan and will. Nothing is ever more important than that.

4. You must realize you don't always have to understand to believe.

What is belief? What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." In essence, faith is the ability to believe what God says...without having to see it for yourself and actually touch it with your hands. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God, and faith is actually a gift from Him. If you are going to be a mother like Mary, choose to believe God, regardless of what you see, feel or can measure right now. Pass that along to your kids...but before you do, you have to have that yourself. You can't give away what you do not have!

5. When God offers validation of His Word, you must investigate it.

I love how the story continues in the first chapter of Luke. He writes, "In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" (Luke 1:42-45). Mary ran to validate the angel's Word...we should do the same. If you don't have a personal faith based upon the conviction from the Word of God, you can't pass it along to your children. And your children need to go through the same process, to discover that God's Word is always true and doesn't have to be validated by cultural acceptance.

6. You must be one that praises God.

Verses 46-55 in Luke chapter 1 is a collection of Mary's praising statements to the Father. She goes on and on about the greatness and faithfulness of God.

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That’s the kind of woman God trusted His Son to, one who knew how and practiced praise. If you want to be a mother like Mary, set an example for your children and others around you of what it looks like to praise the Lord.

7. You must stay close to other believers.

Our story today closes with Luke 1:56, which says, “Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.” Why is this verse here? Just to close out the story? I don’t think so. I think this verse was included to remind us how we all need to be in fellowship with other believers. You have heard me say, “It takes 3 things to live the Christian life: Prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship with other Christians.” If it was true for Mary, it is true for us. We have to learn to prioritize staying close to and spending time with other believers.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Which if the takeaways from Mary's life resonated with you the most?
2. Has there been a time in your life when God interrupted your plans? How did that situation turn out?
3. When was a time you chose to submit to God's will, even when it was difficult? What did you learn from that experience?

WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES

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