

ADVENT: WEEK TWO

day 10

*The Earthly Mother*

Luke 1:26–38



Why did God choose Mary, the girl from Nazareth to be the one who would birth and mother His Only Son? We may never know all of the reasons, but we can see some incredible things about her character from this passage of scripture. For starters, we see that Mary is humble. She is surprised, even troubled, to be visited by an angel and called a favored one. We also see that she has a tendency towards discernment or careful consideration which will follow her throughout her life. And in spite of her surprise, we know that she was selected by an all-knowing Creator. We also quickly see that she has deep faith in who God is. She has lived as a Jewish girl in a society marked by oppression from various earthly realms and silence from God. Roughly 400 years of people waiting for God to come through for them, for another indication that salvation was, in fact, coming. The Old Testament ends with these words from Malachi

**“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”** And after these words, there were no more. Imagine going 400 years, having stories handed down and children taught the language of the Torah, waiting for a Messiah to come as you watched the Greeks take over and then the Romans. All while you watched desecration and poverty and death decimate your people. But in this bleak atmosphere, Mary has somehow managed to capture God’s attention. She has not allowed herself to grow bitter in the waiting or fearful of the future. She has kept her heart turned towards God. We also see another element of Mary’s character so worth emulating: she immediately says YES to God. If I’m honest, I wonder if I could have said YES so quickly. She probably hasn’t had time to play out the entire storyline in her head, but she knows that this will lead to many questions that will be hard to answer. She knows that this will change her life forever. She also knows that this is a very unexpected way for their Messiah to enter the world. So many of the waiting Jews were looking for a coming King that the idea of the Son of God entering the world through the body of a poor girl from Nazareth seemed utterly preposterous. But she says YES. And she says YES humbly, again submitting herself to the Lord in word and deed. May we be lovers of God who are I

like Mary, marked by humility, obedience, and a confident hope that God will always keep His promises.

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