

Journey to Bethlehem

Mary of Nazareth Jim Bricker December 3, 2023

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph . . . The virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:26b-27 NIV

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to wonderfully bless you!" Luke 1:29-30 TLB

God Uses People Who ...

1. Desire to do His will.

Then Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord; my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl." **Luke 1:46-48a NCV**

Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them. **Luke 2:19 TLB**

2. Decide to count the cost.

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true." **Luke 1:38a TLB**

[Jesus] "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23b NLT

3. Dare to trust His promise.

Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you . . . For every promise from God shall surely come true." **Luke 1:34-35a, 37 TLB**

[Jesus] "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Luke 18:27b NIV

[Elizabeth to Mary] "You believed that God would do what he said; that is why he has given you this wonderful blessing." Luke 1:45 TLB