

Heroes of Christmas

Mary: A Christmas Sacrifice

I. Introduction

- Christmas is often experienced as a season of comfort and joy, yet the biblical Christmas story contains sacrifice, danger, murder, heartbreak, and hope.
 - The world may tempt us to pursue comfort, joy, and presents under the tree rather than the Word, truth, and the presence of God who hung on a tree.
 - Christmas reveals a God who works through the unexpected: sinners, outsiders, suffering, and sacrificial obedience.
 - Launching a 3-week series on the Heroes of Christmas, beginning with Mary.
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II. Setting the Stage for the First Christmas

- Four hundred years of silence between Malachi and John the Baptist.
 - Israel was oppressed under the crushing weight of Roman rule, excessive taxation, hunger, and poverty.
 - God's people were still waiting for the promised Messiah foretold in over 300 Old Testament prophecies.
 - The Christmas story is found in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.
 - Today's focus: Luke's Spirit-inspired account introducing one of Scripture's most courageous figures.
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III. Mary: A Hero of Christmas

- Mary is not to be worshipped or prayed to, but she is uniquely honored as the only person to witness both the birth and the death of Jesus.
- A young, poor, likely 14-year-old girl is chosen by God to bear the Son of God.
- God delights in using the young, the overlooked, and the humble for His purposes.



IV. Mary's Yes to God

- Mary is saying yes to becoming the dwelling place of God, carrying the hope of mankind in her womb.
 - Her yes includes sacrifice, danger, misunderstanding, and lifelong accusations.
 - This young girl displays extraordinary courage and faith in God's purpose.
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V. Mary Was Favored (Luke 1:26–33)

- “Favored” does not mean ease, comfort, or status.
 - Though betrothed to Joseph, she becomes pregnant before marriage, risking shame, rejection, and even death (Deuteronomy 22:22).
 - Being favored by God requires trust, surrender, and willingness to lay down one's own plans to experience God's promises.
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VI. Mary Was Knowledgeable (Luke 1:34–38)

- Mary does not doubt *if* God can do this, but asks *how* it will happen.
 - Unlike Sarah or Zechariah, Mary responds with faith grounded in the Word.
 - She knew Isaiah 7:14 and other promises; her Magnificat references at least six Old Testament passages.
 - Mary's example challenges us to become students of Scripture, storing God's Word so we can recognize and participate in His promises.
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VII. Mary Was Adoring (Luke 1:46–55)

- Mary's response to difficulty is worship rather than fear, complaint, or negotiation.
- Her song magnifies:

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- Who God is (Psalm 34:2)
 - The Savior God provides (Isaiah 45:21)
 - God's personal care and knowledge of her situation (1 Samuel 1:11)
 - God's mercy to others across generations (Psalm 126:3)
 - True worship is God-centered, not man-centered; it lifts our eyes from comparison and circumstances to God Himself.
 - Mary shows that adoring God prepares us to carry out His purposes with joy and courage.
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VIII. Conclusion

- The Christmas story is filled with hardship, danger, and sacrifice, yet it reveals the unstoppable work of God in the midst of darkness.
- Mary embodies what it means to trust God, know His Word, and worship Him wholeheartedly.
- Her life teaches us that giving birth to the promises of God often requires courage, sacrifice, and unwavering faith.
- Mary stands as a true Hero of Christmas, pointing us to the God who keeps His promises and brings salvation to His people.