

## Introduction:

As we look to the Word of God for inspiration today, I can think of no better “Mother” to look at than Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ!

No mother has ever had or ever shall have the honor bestowed upon them as did **Mary**!

She is the most loved and adored lady in all the Bible!

[**Illus**] Her name is the most popular name among women.

Elsden C. Smith, a name statistician, says the name **Mary** heads the list of female names in America during the 20<sup>th</sup> century!

According to him there were around 4 million women named **Mary** (1995).

I believe we can all learn some very valuable lessons from **Mary**, the mother of Jesus!

Let us now stand and read our text today as I preach on this **subject**:

## “A Special Mother”

### Opening Text:

**Matthew 1:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

**Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

**Key Verse: V. 28**

### Background Observation:

The Bible doesn't offer us much information about **Mary**, but her role in God's redemptive plan was unique.

Luke 1:26-56 records **Mary's** encounter with the angel Gabriel and her visit with her relative Elizabeth.

The angel who came to **Mary** with the announcement that she would bear the Son of God said that she had “found favor with God” ( Luke 1:30 ).

God honored her above all other women by choosing her to become the virgin mother of the Messiah.

However, the biblical accounts do not emphasize her role as the mother of Jesus.

The Bible nowhere implies that she was born without sin. In fact, she herself recognized her need of a Savior ( Luke 1:47 ).

**Luke 1:47 (KJV)**

<sup>47</sup> And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

She was qualified to give birth to the sinless Son of God because God chose her and miraculously caused her to conceive by the “overshadowing” of the Holy Spirit( [Luke 1:35](#) ).

While it is right to honor her as the **mother** of Jesus Christ, there are no biblical grounds for placing her in a position of mediation between us and our Lord. The Scriptures declare:

*There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus ([1 Timothy 2:5](#)).*

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As evangelicals, we often struggle with how to view **Mary**.

- Is she the holiest of saints?
- The sinless disciple of her son, Jesus?
- The perfect model of faith and obedience?

As we wrestle with our view of **Mary**, the best place to start is Luke’s portrayal of her in the narrative of Jesus’s birth.

[Luke 1:26–38](#) which we have read, serve us as a reminder.

Several elements of this narrative help us form a biblical view of **Mary** (with application for our own lives).

I. **Her Simplicity!**

A. **Mary was Unknown.**

She was a member of the least and most insignificant tribe of Israel, the tribe of Judah.

She did not come from a large city, but from a little village town called Nazareth.

B. **Mary was Unpopular.**

Perhaps only her relatives and a few friends even knew who she was.

We would probably think of her as a “nobody.”

Some of God’s greatest servants have been “unpopular!”

We are not in a “popularity contest!”

We need to remember that it is not where one is, and who one knows that counts, it is that God knows where we are and if we know Him!

### C. **Mary was Unremarkable.**

The first highlight is actually an *anti*-highlight: **Mary’s** obscurity or un-remarkableness.

Significant attention is also paid to Joseph, the man to whom **Mary** was betrothed, and his lineage “of the house of David” (v. 27).

Most importantly, the angel Gabriel prophesies eloquently and at length about the one to whom **Mary** was to give birth: Jesus will be great, the Son of the Most High, the possessor of the Davidic throne, the ruler of God’s people, and the King of an eternal kingdom (vv. 32–33).

By stunning contrast, Luke offers a thin description of **Mary**: a betrothed virgin living in Nazareth (vv. 26–27).

Allow me to add just one more quick but very important observation:

### D. **Mary was Untainted.**

She was a virgin! May I add that she was not only a virgin “before” the birth of Jesus but also after the birth of Jesus as a virgin is one who has never had sexual intercourse!

## II. **Her Selection!**

Why God “chose” her we may never know!

The second (now actual) highlight is the mighty work that God plans to do in and through **Mary**.

According to Gabriel, **Mary** will become the mother of the incarnate Son of God—certainly a one-of-a-kind event in the history of the world!

Most importantly, God’s action toward her is unmerited and undeserved.

### A. **God’s Purpose.**

God had a plan for her life. How wonderful that He has a plan for every life!

There are no “accidents” with God! He does not run things haphazardly! Everything is planned to the minutest detail!

### B. **God’s Prerogative.**

He chose her because she was the one He wanted!

He does AS He pleases, WHEN He pleases, and HOW He pleases! He is sovereign!

#### **Daniel 4:35 (KJV)**

<sup>35</sup> And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

In a word, this narrative is about *grace*, the unmerited, undeserved, unearned blessing of God.

Gabriel’s answer to Mary’s probing question about how his annunciation would come about is straightforward: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (v. 35).

### C. **God’s Pleasure.**

To say the least, God’s ways are so different than ours!

Throughout the Scriptures we find such statements as, “It pleased God to bruise His son...” and “It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

Many of the things that “pleased God” would be considered foolish and utterly ridiculous to the carnal mind, but they are “the wisdom of God!”

### III. **Her Submission!**

#### A. **She Readily Believed.**

The third highlight is **Mary’s** response to the word of God spoken by the angel: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (v. 38).

Not once do we find her questioning the Lord about this matter!

We must accept a lot of things by *faith*. If we could understand we would not need *faith*!

#### B. **She Humbly Bowed.**

Notice again what she said when Gabriel announced to her that she was to have a child:

**Luke 1:38 (KJV)**

<sup>38</sup> And **Mary** said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

An *unremarkable* **virgin girl** who faces the most challenging of responsibilities—to give birth to the Son of God—yields to God and his will.

Most importantly, the object of her faith—not **Mary** herself—is the focus of Luke’s story.

She believes that God himself will fulfill his promised word.

**C. She was Graciously Blessed.**

What transpires, then, is wholly the *gracious* work of God that **Mary** embraces with faith.

What an honor to be the *mother* of Jesus, God’s son! What a miracle she experienced!

Gabriel’s affirmation that “*nothing will be impossible with God*” applies not only to the actual miracle to which he points: “*your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.*”

It also applies to the miracle about to take place in **Mary**: the incarnation of the Son of God.

Even that impossibility will not be impossible with God! Impossible with **Mary**, certainly.

Impossible with **Mary**, even as she exercises the obedience of faith. But not impossible with God.

And if God is still the God of the impossible today, then we may hope that God will do miracles in and through us—even we who fall into unfaithfulness and descend into disobedience far too often.

**Conclusion:** We cannot be Mary exactly, but we too can be “used” of God!

**How should you Christian mothers view **Mary**?**

Not as a perfect saint or sinless disciple, but as an unknown, unremarkable girl who consented by faith to the will of the Lord who graciously favored her: “Let it be to me according to your word!”

That response is an example for us all to imitate.

And at Mary’s urging, we call her blessed, “for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Luke 1:48–49).

**Luke 1:48-49 (KJV)**

<sup>48</sup>For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup>For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy *is* his name.

Please come while we sing!

**Invitation Hymn:** (Bro. Steve selects)

Bruce Beach—5/14/23—a.m. @ WHBC, Dalton