

Digging Deeper by Robert Lee
Sermon Series: *Messy Christmas - Mary*
Scripture Lesson: *Luke 1:26-38*

Monday – Read Luke 1:26-27 and pray for Spiritual Understanding. Who is Elizabeth in verse 26? Elizabeth is “of the daughters of Aaron” and was married to Zechariah. The way that she and her husband lived was pleasing in the eyes of God. Elizabeth is the mother of John the Baptizer. According to Luke, Elizabeth was the aunt of Mary (the virgin mother of Jesus). What is the meaning of Lk. 1:26-38? It is one of two Gospels that offer narratives regarding the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-23 is the other).

Tuesday – Read Luke 1:28 and pray for Spiritual Knowledge. The angel Gabriel was sent to the virgin Mary to Nazareth to tell her that she was “highly favored,” and that the Lord was with her. What is the meaning of being highly favored in this passage? It means that God had His hands on Mary for His purposes, for she was to be the vessel through which Jesus would come to the world.

Wednesday – Read Luke 1:29-30 and pray for Spiritual Discernment. What was the virgin Mary’s initial reaction to what the angel Gabriel told her? Mary was obviously confused and disturbed about what she heard. She was not so much troubled by the sight of the angel as she was by what the angel said.

Thursday – Read Luke 1:31-33 and pray for Spiritual Encouragement. Imagine for a moment the thoughts that must have penetrated the virgin Mary’s mind to learn that she would miraculously conceive and give birth to a son (without involving Joseph who she was engaged to). And this is not just any son, as Jesus was to be (and became) great and was given the throne of his father David. Her son reigns over Jacob’s descendants forever and his kingdom is never-ending.

Friday – Read Luke 1:34-37 and pray for Spiritual Courage. Mary listened intently as the angel Gabriel revealed that she would be conceived by the Holy Spirit and that the power of the Most High will overshadow her. It must have helped Mary accept the words of Gabriel knowing that her aunt Elizabeth, who because of her age was said to be unable to conceive, was in her sixth month of pregnancy.

Saturday – Read Luke 1:38 and pray for Spiritual Obedience. How fitting it was for the virgin Mary to respond to God’s message to her through the angel Gabriel. Sin can keep a believer from stopping pursuit of the Lord. However, Mary is a good example of what it is like to be rewarded by God because of her obedience.