

Pastor Jim Jackson, 11/30/25
Where Do You Put Your Hope?
Luke 1:26–38

Mary put her hope in God's PROMISE

Mary was an ordinary young woman in an ordinary location who found herself in an extraordinary situation. When Gabriel appeared to her in Nazareth, he informed her of God's desire to use her to bring the Son of God into the world. Instead of responding with anger or rejection, Mary responded in submission. She was chosen because God found a willing, faith-filled heart. *When God calls you to the impossible or improbable, don't retreat in fear, respond in faith!* When we face challenges, it's easy to be overwhelmed. But hope begins when we choose to trust God's promises rather than rely on our feelings. *Find your identity in God's calling* (1 Pet. 2:9). Mary's identity was rooted in God's declaration over her, not in what others thought of her. We, too, must find our identity in what God says, not in the opinions of the world. Mary knew her biology. She was a virgin, and virgins don't become pregnant. But she didn't focus on what was impossible for her, she trusted in what was possible for God and believed God would do what only He could do. *Impossibilities become possible with God!*

Mary put her hope in God's PURPOSE

Instead of rejecting and running from God's purpose, Mary ran to it and rejoiced in it. Her song of praise (the Magnificat) shows her deep understanding of God's larger purpose (Luke 1:46-49). Like Mary, we must worship God even when we don't have all the answers, knowing that He is at work in our lives and in the world. *Worship God through difficulty and uncertainty.* She rejoiced not just in her personal blessing, but in the hope of the salvation God was bringing to the world through her Son. Though God didn't give her all the details, or the struggle involved, Mary endeavored to bring God glory. Our walk of faith requires trusting God when we don't have control of situations or see the reason why they happen. *God's purpose might not always be fully known, but we can fully trust the God who is* (Prov. 3:5, 6)! Remember your life is part of God's bigger story. Our hope comes from knowing our stories are part of God's grand narrative of redemption. Mary's hope teaches us to trust in God's Word, rely on His power, and align ourselves with His eternal purpose. *Place your hope in the same God who worked in Mary's life—and who is still at work in your life today!*