

## **Important Women of the Bible**

### **Mary: The Highly Favored**

Luke 1:26-56

#### **Common Misconceptions about Mary:**

- **Was Mary Perfect? No.** *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* **Romans 3:23**

*"...But one (Jesus) who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."* **Hebrews 4:15b**

- **Was Mary a Perpetual Virgin? No.**

*"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."* **Matthew 1:24-25**

*"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."* **Acts 1:14**

- **Does Mary Intercede for Us with God? No.**

*"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."* **1 Timothy 2:5-6**

*"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her. In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'"* **Luke 1:26-45**

**Main Idea:** The Best Way to Respond to the Favor of God is Faithfulness to God

#### **I. Mary was Faithful to Consider the Angel's Announcement**

*"It was just as hard for Mary, in her own way, to believe the gospel as it is for us today."* **Timothy Keller**

*"So here's Mary – financially insolvent, with a ruined reputation, her most important relationship in tatters – and she supposedly has the favor of God. How?"* **J.D. Greear**

#### **II. Mary was Faithful to Open Up about her Doubt**

*"For nothing will be impossible with God."* **Luke 1:37**

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#### **Mary was Faithful to Surrender Herself to the Lord**

*"And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."* **Luke 1:38**

*"Why do you think Jesus Christ came into this world through a pregnant, unwed teenage girl in a patriarchal shame-and-honor culture? He was saying, 'I don't do things the way the world expects, but in the opposite way altogether. My power is made perfect in weakness. My Savior-Prince will be born not into a cradle in a royal palace but into a feed trough in a stable – not to powerful and famous people but to disgraced peasants... So Mary and Joseph were willing to do for Jesus what Jesus was going to do for them. Faithfully surrender to the Father's will.'" **Timothy Keller***

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#### **Mary Faithfully Belonged to Her Community**

*"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.'" **Luke 1:46-55***

*"In the end, that's what God's favor is all about – HOPE. God's favor isn't always easy. Sometimes, as with Mary, it brings with it a lot of difficulties. But it's always GOOD, because it brings us a hope in God's promises, and an assurance that his presence will be with us."* **J.D. Greear**

### **Sources and Reading Opportunities**

- *Mother of God* – Timothy Keller (2013)
- *What Can Mary Teach Us About God's Favor?* – JD Greear (2015)
- *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* – Barry, Bomar, Brown, etc (2016)
- *Complete Word Study Dictionary* – Spiros Zodhiates (2000)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Laney & Hughes (2001)
- *Wiersbe Expository Outlines* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *What Does the Bible Say about the Virgin Mary?* – GotQuestions.org