

# Mary . . . Did “You” Know . . . ?

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, Gabriel brought a second birth announcement, this time to a young virgin in Nazareth named Mary. (*note that the obedience to purity is vitally important*)

The people in Judah couldn’t stand the Jews in Galilee and claimed they were not “kosher” because of their contacts with the Gentiles there . They especially despised the people from Nazareth:

***John 1:45–46*** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “**We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**”

**And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”**

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

But God in His grace chose a girl from Nazareth in Galilee to be the mother of the promised Messiah!

People tend to view Mary in one of two ways:

- **They either magnify her so much that Jesus takes second place**
- **Or, they ignore her and fail to give her the esteem she deserves**

Look at how Elizabeth put it:

***Luke 1:43*** But why is this granted to me, that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me?

Respectful, but the emphasis is on “my Lord”.

*What do we know about Mary?*

- **She was a Jewess of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, and a virgin:**

***Isaiah 7:14*** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

- **She was engaged to a carpenter in Nazareth named Joseph:**

***Matthew 13:55*** **Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?**

- **She had other children:**

***Matthew 13:55*** **Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?**

- **Apparently both she and Joseph were quite poor:**

***Leviticus 12:8*** “**And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.**”

**Luke 2:22-24** Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

- **Lastly, since Jewish girls married young, it is likely that Mary was a teenager when the angel appeared to her.**

Among the Jews at that time, engagement was almost as binding as marriage and could be broken only by divorce, to fact, the man and the woman were called “husband” and “wife” even before the marriage took place:

**Matthew 1:19-20** Then Joseph **her husband**, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to **put her away secretly**. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “**Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife**, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 2:4-5** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife**, who was with child.

### **Similar Surprise!**

**Luke 1:26-33** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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.”

**Rejoice** = χαίρω *chairō* = Cheerful. Calmly happy due to peace.

**Highly Favored** = χαριτόω *charitōō* = Indued with special honor.

**Blessed** = εὐλογέω *eulogēō* = Spoken well of. (where we get our word for “eulogy”)

Just think about it . . . She was looked at like this and God was going to be in her, and we’re looked at like this because God is in us!

When we consider Gabriel’s greeting, you can well understand why Mary was perplexed and afraid: Why would an angel be coming to greet *her*? In what way was she “highly favored” by God? How was God with her?

Mary never expected to see an angel and receive special favors from heaven. There was nothing unique about her that such things should happen.

Gabriel then gave her the good news . . . (we can say the Best News Ever):

- She would become the mother of the promised Messiah whom she would name *Jesus*:

**Jesus = Ἰησοῦς** *Iēsous = Jehovah is Salvation.*

**Matthew 1:21** *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

Note that Gabriel affirmed both the deity and the humanity of Jesus:

• **As Mary's Son, He would be fully Human:**

**Luke 1:31** *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.*

• **As God's Son, He would be fully God:**

**Luke 1:32** *He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.*

This coincides with the Old Testament:

**Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

- "For unto us a child is born" [His humanity]
- "Unto us a son is given" [His deity]

Note, once again, the emphasis is on the greatness of the Son, not the greatness of the mother.

And with the New Testament:

**Philippians 2:5-8** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Keep in mind however, that although Jesus was born into a "poor family" He would also be a king, inherit David's throne, and reign over Israel forever! I can't wait till that great and glorious day!

## **Sweet Surrender!**

**Luke 1:34-38** *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"*

*And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the*

*Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."*

*Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Unlike Zacharias, her question in Luke 1:34 ("**How can this be, since I do not know a man?**") was not an evidence of unbelief; rather, it was an expression of faith. How can we tell that?

By acknowledging that it was going to happen, she just wanted to know how? She believed the promise, but she did not understand the performance. How could a virgin give birth to a child?

How can we verify this thought of her's being a question founded in faith and Zacharias, question being one rooted in doubt? Simple . . . **Zacharias was made dumb for his question . . . Mary was not.**

To answer her question, Gabriel explained that this would be a miracle, the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

Joseph, her betrothed, would not be the father of the child:

**Matthew 1:18–25** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, **before they came together**, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."***

*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

*Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

Although, Jesus would be legally identified as the son of Joseph:

**Luke 3:23** *Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) **the son of Joseph**, the son of Heli,*

**Luke 4:22** *So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "**Is this not Joseph's son?**"*

**John 1:45** *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—**Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**"*

**John 6:42** *And they said, "**Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?** How is it then that He says, '**I have come down from heaven**'?"*

It's possible that some people thought Mary had been unfaithful to Joseph and that Jesus was "born of fornication". Listen to the disrespect of the Pharisees:

**John 8:41** *You do the deeds of your father."*

Then they said to Him, **“We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.”**

In other words, “We (the Pharisees) are born of God, you (Jesus) are born of sin.”

How crazy is this?

And this is probably just a taste of what Jesus, Joseph, and Mary had to deal with the rest of their lives.

**Luke 2:33-35** *And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”*

Although she was blessed, it came with a burden . . . But this was the way God was going to reveal men’s hearts. Who is Jesus to us? That is the question of questions!

The same thing is true as believers, that although we’re blessed because we have been connected with God, we are separated from the world and this does have its consequences:

**John 15:18-20** *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

It’s amazing the ridicule that comes with believing in the birth of the Perfect Son of God!

Gabriel pointed out that the Baby would be a “holy” and would not share the sinful human nature of man!

- **Jesus knew no sin**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- **He did no sin**

**1 Peter 1:18-19** *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

- **He had no sin**

**1 John 3:5** *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.*

- **His body was prepared for Him by the Spirit of God and therefore untainted**

**Hebrews 10:5** *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.*

Gabriel ended his message by giving Mary a word of encouragement: her aged relative Elizabeth was with child, proving that with Elizabeth, and with herself: ***Luke 1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible.***

**Impossible** = ἀδυνατέω *adynateō* = *Unable to be performed.*

### **GOD IS ABLE!**

***Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.***

***Job 42:2 I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.***

***Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.***

***Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”***

The translation of this verse found in the 1901 American Standard Version reads as follows: “For no word of God shall be void of power.”

God accomplishes His purposes through the power of His Word!

***Psalms 33:9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.***

Mary’s believing response was to surrender herself to God as His willing servant. A “handmaid” was the lowest kind of female servant, which shows how much Mary trusted God. She belonged totally to the Lord, body (***Luke 1:38***), soul (***Luke 1:46***), and spirit (***Luke 1:47***).

What an example for us to follow!

***Romans 12:1–2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***