***Godly Women Series 2019 Part 9***

**Mary: “Blessed Among Women”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday September 15th, 2019

Text: Luke 1:26-38, 42, 48

# Intro

1. There are examples both good and bad in the Scriptures.
2. Men and women alike can provide us with sources of strength and inspiration.
   1. Eve: “Mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20) and an example of moving past sin!
   2. Sarah: Mother of nations (Gen. 17:16), Mother of saints (Gal. 4:26,31), Mother of godly wives (I Pet. 3:6), and is an example of faith and overcoming one’s weaknesses!
   3. Ruth: An example of faith and virtue (Ruth 1:16-18; 3:11)!
   4. Abigail: An example of faith, respect, wisdom, and concern! (I Sam. 25)
   5. Proverbs 31 Woman: Her relationships, behavior, and character were “excellent” (“virtuous”) and she was a woman of great faith! (Prov. 31:10-31).
   6. The Shunammite Woman: She served God with the abilities she had! She was hospitable, content, & had faith in God! (II Kings 4:8-37)
   7. Queen Esther: A brave queen who trusted in God (Esther 4:14-5:1-4)
   8. Peter’s Wife: A hospitable, believing, elder’s wife (Mk. 1:29-31; I Cor. 9:5; I Peter 5:1)
3. Godly role models are greatly needed today!
4. When talking about godly women, we can’t leave out Mary, the mother of Jesus!
5. She was chosen from among all the women of her day to bear the physical form of the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38; NKJV – 1:28) and to raise Him! *The story of Mary is really about Jesus!*
6. Mary was favored by God (Luke 1:28, 30) and “blessed among women” (Luke 1:[NKJ: 28], 42, 48)!

# Her Purity & Virtue

* + 1. When we first meet Mary in Scripture, she is pure, a virgin (Luke 1:26-27, 34).
    2. Virgin defined:

1. *Gr. Parthenos (G3933):* a maiden, a virgin; chaste; an unmarried daughter.
2. One who has never had sexual relations; chaste (Vine NT). A pure and chaste person in relation to sexuality – *Rev. 14:4: Here, in regards to men who are virgins.*
   1. HCSB Luke 1:34: “How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?” (KJV/NKJ: “I do not know a man”)
   2. **Note:** Why was Zechariah rebuked & disciplined for not believing (Luke 1:18-20), while Mary who also questioned the angel was ultimately praised for believing? (Luke 1:45)
   3. Notice there is a subtle difference between the questions asked – Mary asks, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:34). Zechariah asks, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years” (Luke 1:18).
   4. Zechariah’s question is essentially, “How do I know you are actually going to fulfill this promise?” This was asked by Abraham in Genesis 17:17 when God gives him a promise. Zechariah may have thought it was safe to ask this question since he was mirroring Father Abraham. The angel demonstrates that this was not a time for mirroring Abraham, but for learning from Abraham. God gave Abraham a son even in his old age. God fulfilled His promise to Abraham (Gen. 21:1-7). Abraham was the first and perhaps his doubts and questions can be understood. But Zechariah should learn from Abraham that God need not be doubted. His prayer was heard and would be granted ( Luke 1:13).
   5. Mary’s question only asks the mechanics. It is not necessarily a question of doubt, but rather one about a lack of understanding. There had never been a pregnant virgin before! No precedent!
      1. She was an engaged (NASB)—espoused (KJV), betrothed (NKJV)—virgin (Luke 1:27)
3. By Jewish law she was already considered a wife for she had been promised to Joseph.
4. Joseph is called her husband, she is his wife (Mt 1:18-25).
5. The purity of virginity and the honor of marriage are both seen in her (Heb. 13:4), abstaining till marriage.
6. She was most likely in her teens (Jews could marry as early as 13 years old) and if so she would be an unwed pregnant teen *(We don’t know for certain how old or young she was though)*
   1. Gabriel told Zacharias his prayer was heard and he would have a son in his old age (Luke 1:13)
   2. Mary, most likely, was not praying for a pregnancy, to be a pregnant teen!
   3. Gabriel tells her she had found favor with God (Luke 1:28-30)
7. *Can you imagine if your teenage daughter told you they were pregnant and when you ask who the father is, she responds, “God’s Holy Spirit” – would you believe it?*
8. She accepted this possible disgrace and isolation in Luke 1:38: “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”
9. Matthew 1:19-25: Joseph intended to secretly put her away to save her from disgrace. He would call off the engagement! An angel told him this was from God and Joseph, to his credit, had faith in God and married Mary.
   * 1. After the birth of Jesus, she became the wife of Joseph in the complete sense of the term – Mt. 1:24-25
10. Contrary to Catholic doctrine, she was not a *perpetual virgin*.
11. Joseph “kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son” *(Mt. 1:24-25).* Abstained till after birth!
    1. When they arrived in Bethlehem prior to Jesus' birth, she was still his betrothed wife, and pregnant (Luke 2:4-5).
    2. After the birth of Jesus, the full husband/wife relationship existed; for at least four sons and two daughters were born to them – Mt. 1:24-25; 13:55-56

###### **Application:**

* 1. God will keep His Word. We may sometimes wonder how God will accomplish His promises. We may even ask. God will always fulfill His promises. May we never doubt that!
  2. The Lord commands purity & virtue of all who would follow Him (Phil. 4:8-9; I Jn. 3:1-3).
  3. You don’t have to wait until you are grown up and old to be an example of faith! Believe in God. Believe God. Believe His Word. Start now!
  4. Let Mary be your example of the right relationships the right way: virginity, engaged, married!

###### She was a chaste, moral (virtuous), obedient servant of the Lord!

## Her Humility & Submission

###### She humbly accepted the word of God from Gabriel (Luke 1:31-33, 35, 38), “Behold, the bondslave (KJV: “handmaid”) of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”

###### She didn’t argue about the mechanics of how that would be done, or ask about her reputation in the community, or if Joseph would keep her around.

* + - 1. She accepted the word of God from Gabriel! She trusted in God to work out the details!
      2. We often want to know all the details! Very often when it comes to God, we just need to be humble and trust in Him! *(IE: David, concerning his trust in God in dealing with Saul, I Sam. 16:11-13; 24:6-10; 26:9-11, 23; ch. 31; II Sam. 1:14-16)*

###### She knew her role was one of subjection – She submitted…

1. To the will of God *(Luke 1:38:* *“May it be done to me according to your word.”)*
2. To her husband—as all wives are to be in subjection to their husbands *(Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18).* 
   1. During the infancy of Jesus, God, as revealed in Scripture, dealt entirely with Joseph. God sends **him** to Egypt, calls **him** out of Egypt and then directs **him** where to live *(Mt. 2:13-22).*
3. To her Son (The Son of God)
   1. At the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, she makes a veiled suggestion but can only say, “Whatever He says to you, do it” (John 2:1-12).
   2. Jesus denied her any special favor or place in His kingdom (Mark 3:31-35: “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother”). The spiritual relationship is greater than any physical relationship (Matthew 10:37-38)
   3. She waited her Son’s lifetime to see Him sit on the throne of David *(Luke 1:32)*, and it never happened in the physical sense.
   4. She was there at the foot of the cross when the Light of the world went out *(Jn. 19:25-27),* and her soul was pierced as with a sword! (Luke 2:34-35) – Nothing she could do but helplessly watch!
   5. Before His death Jesus made provision for her care – Jn. 19:25-27
   6. He acknowledged her by saying, “Woman, behold your son!” (Jn. 19:26).
   7. He entrusted her to the care of the apostle John who took her in that very hour.
   8. We can only imagine what joy filled her soul when she heard the good news of the empty tomb and that Mary Magdalene said, “I have seen the Lord!” (John 20:18)
   9. Her Son ascended to Heaven and then sat down on the throne of David forever *(Acts 2:29-36; Rev. 22:16),* fulfilling the promise made to her before He was born *(Luke 1:32)*, just not the way she probably imagined it *(Mk. 16:19).*

###### **Application:**

1. Followers of Jesus must exhibit the humility and trust of Mary! – Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:12; James 1:21 (In humility receive the word, like Mary!); I Pet. 5:5

###### She was humble and in subjection to the will and word of God!

### Her Heart Was Filled With Heavenly Things

1. She had a heart filled with heavenly things (Luke 2:19, 51)
2. When the shepherds heard the good news of the Savior of the world from an angel and heard the angelic chorus they hurried to Bethlehem and found Joseph and Mary and related to them all that they were told (Luke 2:8-18) – Treasured all these things in heart & pondered on them (Luke 2:19)
   1. When Luke wrote his gospel, “gospel” or “good news” was not a religious word. It was a political word that was usually used to refer to some great news about the emperor, the empire, or victory.
      1. It was the word used to describe the birth of the coming emperor or the ascension of a new emperor or the victory of the emperor over Rome’s enemies.
      2. When the angels used this word to describe the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:10-12), it was a powerful word for those Jewish shepherds. The anointed King of Israel, the descendant of David was born. He would be both Lord and Savior of the Jews (Acts 2:36). Rome would not be able to withstand this King.
      3. It was good news of great joy because finally the real King had been born, and victory over all enemies was coming.
   2. Jesus came as the humble King (Zec. 9:9; Mt. 21:1-9), born in a stable of some kind and laid in a manger (feeding trough, more accurately – Luke 2:10-12).
      1. The word translated “inn” doesn’t refer to a motel here as we might picture in our heads from the way this story is told.
      2. This is not the same word as found in Luke 10:34-35, where the “Good Samaritan” took the beaten man to a public lodging place *(G3829).*
      3. This is the same word used in Luke 22:11 where it is translated “guest room” *(G2646),* where Jesus and His apostles ate the Passover (Last Supper).
      4. Joseph and Mary were going to their ancestral home. They would have had all kinds of family there. In that culture, they wouldn’t be staying in a hotel, but with family.
      5. They had been there for a time and she gave birth. This wasn’t an issue of getting to the hotel too late and there is a “no vacancy” sign. Instead, this is the picture of families opening their homes to one another, but when the baby comes, there is no room for that among all the guests staying in the guest room. The text says, “While they were there, the time came for her to give birth” (Luke 2:6)
      6. If you are going to have a messy, screaming mother giving birth to a messy, crying baby, don’t do that in the guest room where the rest of the family is wanting to sleep and live. Put them out in the stable where they won’t bother anyone!
      7. It never really gets any better for Jesus. Jesus later says, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58).
      8. From His birth to His death, folks saw Jesus as an inconvenience. There was no room for Him.
   3. **Imagine:** A little while later, in a house still in Bethlehem, magi from the east found them and bowed before Jesus (not Mary) and worshiped Him and presented expensive gifts (Mt. 2:1-11).
   4. What would you think about important people coming to your house and bowing before your toddler *(Herod killed all males 2 years old and under – Mt. 2:16)* and presenting expensive gifts?
3. At the Temple for circumcision when Jesus was 8 days old, they met Simeon, a righteous man who would not die till He saw the Christ. He held Jesus and praised God and gave a prophecy of what He would do and the pain Mary would later feel. They were amazed at his words (Luke 2:21-33).
4. When they went up to Jerusalem for the Passover (as they did every year) and 12-year old Jesus stayed behind in the temple, when they found Him 3 days later reasoning with the teachers, Mary asked Him why He treated them in such a way. Jesus told them He had to be about His Father’s business. They didn’t understand the statement (Luke 2:41-50) - Mary treasured all these things in her heart (Luke 2:51)
5. Gabriel had told her Jesus would be great, the Son of the Highest, have the throne of David, and reign over the house of Jacob and a kingdom that would never end *(Luke 1:32-33).*
6. She kept her heart filled with these good things from above!
7. **Application:** 
   1. All Christians ought to treasure heavenly things and ponder on things of God, to think about excellent things! (Col. 3:1-3: Focus on Heavenly things, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God; Phil. 4:8: Dwell on excellent things!)
   2. What good news of great joy this still is today! Our King was born. He lived. He conquered. He reigns. He is the Savior. He is the Lord. He is the King. He is the Emperor. He is the only way to victory over and salvation from every enemy, including sin and death (John 14:7; Acts 4:12). That is good news of great joy!
   3. Make room for Jesus in your hearts and follow Jesus today!
8. Mary filled her heart with heavenly things and pondered on things of God!

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### Her Faith

1. Elizabeth, her relative and the mother of John the Baptist, calls her, “she who believed” (Luke 1:45).
   1. Luke 1:36 says Elizabeth is Mary’s relative (KJV: “cousin”), but they weren’t the same age! Elizabeth was in her “old age” (Luke 1:36) and “advanced in years” (Luke 1:18), while Mary, newly betrothed was most likely very young.
2. Mary’s faith was strong, and in her praise to God, she even quoted Scripture (she knew God’s word):
   1. Luke 1:46-56: She quotes from *Ps. 103:17* in *Vs. 50,* and from *Ps. 107:9* in *Vs. 53.*
   2. She also praises God for His promise to Abraham whether she realized Jesus would be that fulfillment or not.
3. She was godly, found favor with God and remained faithful to Him – She and Joseph kept the Law!
   1. At 8 days old they took Jesus to be circumcised and to officially name Him Jesus according to the angel of God – Luke 2:21 *(Lev. 12:3)*
   2. They presented Jesus to the Temple according to the Law of Moses, and offered the sacrifices poor people were told to offer, 2-turtledoves & 2 pigeons – Luke 2:22-24 *(Lev. 12:6-8: If they could not afford a lamb)* – this is before the wise men brought their gifts!
   3. They went up to Jerusalem every year for the Passover – Luke 2:41-42 *(Deut. 16:16)*
   4. She and Joseph were faithful to the word of God!
4. She was listed among the believers in the “Upper Room” in Jerusalem – Acts 1:14
   1. “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer.”
   2. The believers weren’t praying ***to*** her, but were praying ***with*** her!
   3. Her last mention in Scripture is of her and her children listed among believers “continually devoted” to praying to God “with one mind.”
5. **Application:** 
   1. Her faith & humility caused her to say, “May it be done to me, your bondservant!” (Luke 1:38)
   2. We may not always understand God’s will or how things will work out but we need to have faith in God and in His plans (Heb. 11:1, 6).
   3. Mary and Joseph were faithful to keep God’s word, even if it inconvenienced them to go to Jerusalem yearly for the feast and to sacrifice. They were an example to young Jesus of putting God and His word first in their lives!
   4. May we be willing to do that for our children!
   5. They ought to see us bring them to church services, see us partake of the Lord’s Supper, hear us sing, see us study along, and we need to teach them why we do these things!
   6. We need to have faith, even if it requires our lives! (II Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10)
6. Mary was faithful to God from beginning to end of her record in the Scriptures!

##### Conclusion

1. Mary played a role in God’s Plan: she was chosen for a special part, to be the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:42-43: Elizabeth was already referring to Him as *Kurios [G2962]).*
   1. It was a favor that God bestowed upon her (Luke 1:28-30).
   2. This shows her to be a recipient of blessings and not one to whom a person is to pray to for blessings.
   3. She had such a character and quality about her that she found favor with God.
   4. Gen. 6:8: “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” God saved him & his family.
   5. Mary found favor with God and would bear His Son into this world, “who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)
   6. She was “blessed among women” (Luke 1:[NKJ: 28], 42, 48)
   7. One of a woman's greatest earthly blessings is in her children (Prov. 31:28).
   8. Her Firstborn was not only a blessing to her but to all who will hear, believe and come to Him (Luke 11:27-28: He took focus off the physical and placed emphasis on the spiritual).
2. Mary was a woman “favored by God” (Luke 1:28, 30) and “blessed among women!” (Luke 1:42).
3. There are many examples of godly women in Scripture and this series didn’t get them all, for time would fail us if we discussed Rahab, Deborah, Hannah, of Mary Magdalene, Lydia and Dorcas!
4. As we consider the life of Mary let all Christians strive to be godly and remain faithful!
   1. Will you remain faithful to the end? *(Rev. 2:10)*
5. If you are not a Christian, you are of this world, which is set for destruction and judgment. Repent and be baptized and obey the voice of the Lord, who came to “save the lost” (Luke 19:10).
6. If a Christian who has strayed, now is the time to come back. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!