

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Made Mary Remarkable?

Luke 1:26-38

1 What made the virgin Mary so remarkable that she would be chosen to be the earthly mother of the Lord?

Our scripture today explains this. 2

From the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 26 through 38, we read, In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 1 3

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will

¹ Luke 1:26-29.

this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”²

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The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.^{3 5}

So, what do we know about Mary?⁶

She was probably between fourteen and seventeen years old. Joseph could have been in his twenties or thirties.⁷ She was probably born and raised in either Nazareth or Cana, just a few miles away.⁸ Her marriage was arranged between her father and Joseph’s father.⁹

² Luke 1:30-34.

³ Luke 1:35-38.

She had at least six other children after Jesus. ⁴ ₁₀

The Lord's first miracle, changing water into wine, was at her request. ⁵ ₁₁

She, and some of her children, tried to see Jesus. ⁶ ₁₂

At His crucifixion, Lord Jesus provided for her care. ⁷

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After His resurrection, Mary was with the other disciples, and the Lord's brothers, in prayer. ⁸

⁴ Matthew 13:55-56 - "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

⁵ John 2:1-5 - On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Mark 3:31-32 - Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

⁷ John 19:25-27 - Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

⁸ Acts 1:14 - They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

God chose her to be the mother of our Lord Jesus. Why? Because Mary was a very remarkable person. ¹⁴

So, what made her remarkable? ¹⁵

I. Her Recommendation – v28-35

Her recommendation. ¹⁶

She was qualified for the task. **What was her qualification?** ¹⁷

The angel could have said, “Your heritage has made you worthy”. ¹⁸ She was born into the right family. She was a descendant of David, but not through the royal line! ⁹ ¹⁹ But, she was to marry Joseph who was of the royal line! ¹⁰ ²⁰

However, the angel said instead, **You have found favor with God!** ¹¹ ²¹ The word “favor”, in the original language, ¹² which means to find favor, is in the active voice ²² which implies that she caused God to look at

⁹ Luke 3:23-38.

¹⁰ Matthew 1:2-17.

¹¹ Luke 1:30.

¹² Ευρίσκω.

her favorably because of the type of person she was!

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How do you prepare yourself to be a God approved servant? Second Timothy, chapter 2, verse 15, encourages us to **do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Get into the word!** ²⁴

A second factor that made Mary so remarkable was ...

II. Her Referral – v36-37

Her referral. Verse 36 and 37 here states, **Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.** ²⁵

She questioned, but she didn't doubt. Verse 34, “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” Her faith simply needed to be strengthened! ²⁶

Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, also questioned the angel about his wife's miraculous pregnancy. But he

doubted. So he had to pay a consequence for his doubt. ¹³ 27

How about you? Do you really trust God with your life? Do you trust Him to answer your prayers? 28

We find the angel's answer in verse 35, **The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you**. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 29

God strengthened her faith the same way He strengthens yours! He gives you more evidence to base your faith on. What evidence? 30

Verse 36! Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. Elizabeth was an old woman, long past childbearing age! But she was six months pregnant by the time Mary arrived to visit her.

¹³ Luke 1:5-20.

³¹ God made the same promise to Sarah in the Old Testament, and she bore the patriarch, Isaac! ¹⁴ ³²

When God makes promises, things happen, because **nothing is impossible with God!** ¹⁵ ³³

The final factor, in this scripture, that makes Mary so remarkable is . . .

III. Her Response – v38

Her response. ³⁴ **“I am the Lord’s servant,”** Mary answered. **“May it be to me as you have said.”** ¹⁶ ³⁵
God’s will was her command, regardless of the consequences! What were the possible repercussions? ³⁶

¹⁴ Genesis 21:1-7 - Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

¹⁵ Luke 1:37.

¹⁶ Luke 1:38.

She was betrothed (engaged); yet pregnant! ³⁷ She could be divorced or, even worse, actually stoned to death! ³⁸

She could be disowned by her family; thrown out and forced to roam the streets in disgrace. ³⁹ She would continually be gossiped about as a harlot. ⁴⁰

But, even realizing what could have happened, she trusted God! ⁴¹

Do you trust God that much? Romans, chapter 6, verses 16 through 18, explains, **Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**

God expects you, His servant, to trust Him! If you are not obeying God in a faith relationship, you are obeying sin! ⁴²

Decide to commit yourself to obeying God in everything God desires of you!

Trust Him with the consequences!

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