

MARY, THE VIRGIN

During the month of December, we will study a Christmas special (Series) entitled, Mary's Christmas.

We will study the following four lessons regarding Mary's association with the birth of the messianic Savior of the world.

Dec.3rd	Mary, the Virgin	Luke 1:26-38
Dec.10th	Mary, the Relative	Luke 1:39-56
Dec.17th	Mary, the Mother	Luke 2:1-7
Dec.24th	Mary, the Woman	John 19:23-27

Mary speaks three times with the angel Gabriel in our lesson text. We will study this conversation in our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- The Salutation (Luke 1:29) Month, Mary, Message
- The Situation (Luke 1:34) Impossibility, Immaculate, Immanuel
- The Submission (Luke 1:38) Bond slave, Be it done, Bible doctrine

When this story begins, Mary's life was going great. She was in love with a spiritual mature believer in a time of spiritual declining nation. A needle in hay shack concept apart from the perfect plan of God.

Then Gabriel shows up with a special message and assignment from God that will turn her world upside down (apostello / a.p.ind) (Luke.1:26). How important is it for Mary to understand these three categories of the will of God: geographical, mental, and operational?

This lesson will study SIX aspects of how Mary's virginity played an important part in this special message and assignment in the plan of God.

1. Three times the English word virgin is used with Mary in our lesson text (1:27, 34). Two different Greek words are used to explain it.

The angel Gabriel used the Greek word parthenos. He used the prophetic and technical word for virgin (1:27; Isa.7:14). The Hebrew word in Isa.7:14 is almah. The LXX translated it parthenos. Almah explains that it will be a Jewish girl that is of age to marry.

Mary used a Greek word phrase, aner ginosko (p.a.ind) (Luke 1:34). "How can this be, since I know not a man?" Mary explains to Gabriel that she has never had sexual intercourse with anyone. A needle in hay shack in time of a spiritual declining nation. "Flee immortality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Cor.6:19-20)

The presence of Gabriel means that some big event in the redemptive plan of God is scheduled. This is the second of four visits dealing with the birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 1-2).

2. Mary is addressed as a spiritual mature believer.

"**Hail** (chairo / p.a.impv) [rejoice] the idea is **I bring you good news, favored one** (charitoo / perf.p.ptc vsf) [endued with grace!] **The Lord is with you.**" (Luke.1:28)

He addresses Mary with a very respectful spiritual salutation, one that recognizes her spiritual maturity status. (1 Cor.6:3). It was Mary's spiritual growth maturity that found favor with God.

She is God's first choice for this assignment among all the Jewish virgins of the tribe of David. **She is God's first choice because God is her first choice in all her relationships:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matt.22:37)

How important is your personal relationship with the Lord in relation to all other relationships? How do we know that her relationship with the Lord is primary in her life and not secondary? _____

- She lived in "undistracted devotion to the Lord." (1 Cor.7:35)

3. Mary's assignment became a supreme spiritual test of loyalty in regard to her relationship with the Lord compared to all other relationship in her life.

Her relationship with the Lord must remain primary and other relationships in her life must become secondary. This includes her relationship with Joseph and her family. She must not waiver in her loyalty no matter how others respond to her assignment (Matt.Ch.1) [Joseph].

She must remain focused on her spiritual priorities and undistracted devotion to the Lord. She must believe that God always prepares the spiritual advancing believer in grace for the things she is about to face (Rom.8:28; James 4:13-17; Matt.6:25-34).

4. Gabriel's special message and assignment for Mary was based on the 700-year-old messianic prophecy of Isa.7:14.

This prophecy was rooted in the Davidic covenant (2 Sam.7:12-17) and the Abrahamic covenant (Matt.1:1, 17; Gen.12:1-3) and the Adamic covenant (Gen.3:15; 1 Cor.15:22) . It teaches us once again that God is faithful to His word.

Mary will give birth to the prophetic Savior of the world (Luke.1:31-33; Isa.9:6-7). She will give birth to Immanuel (Matt.1:22-23; Isa.7:14; 8:8).

Mary wonders how this can be (Luke 1:29), since she is a virgin by choice (Luke 1:34).

5. Mary will receive a miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit as a virgin and give birth to Jesus Christ, the messianic Savior (Matt.1:21; Luke 1:31-37; 2:11; Gal.4:4-6; 1 Tim.1:15).

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

- Person of Holy Spirit – He will come (eperchomai / f.m.ind) upon (epi+acc) you.
- Power (dunamis / nsf) [creative power] of Most High – Power will overshadow (episkiazō / f.a.ind) you.
- Pregnant with holy offspring (to hagios gennaō / p.p.ptc nsn) – He will be called (kaleō / f.p.ind) the Son of God

6. Virgin birth means that the humanity of Jesus Christ was not blemish with AOS (Matt.1:20; Luke 1:35).

It is the first stage of qualifying Jesus to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:18-19; Luke 2:11; 1 John 4:9, 11). Jesus remained outside AOS volitionally and became impeccable and qualified to become our substitute for sin (Isa.53:7; 1 Pet.2:24; 1 John 2:2; 3:5; 2 Cor.5:21; Heb.4:15).