

## GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY

Gabriel's second Christmas sermon was preached to a spiritually mature virgin named Mary:  
(Lk.1:28) "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Last week we learned that Gabriel was God's communicator of the message of Christ:  
(Lk.1:19) "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have sent to speak to you, and to bring you this **good news** (euangelizo / p.m.infin) [gospel]."

Six months after bringing the message of the "good news [gospel]" of Christ to Zachariah, he is the messenger of this "good news [gospel]" to Mary:  
(Lk.1:26-27) "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent **from God** to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin (parthenos) [marital age] engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

<b>Today's lesson will study four aspects of Gabriel's Message to Mary.</b>
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### **1. According to the Scriptures, Mary was planning her marriage.**

(Lk.1:26-27, 34) "to a virgin (parthenos / **asf**) engaged (mnesteuo / perf.p.ptc **asf** / adjectival)."

Like Elizabeth (priestly), Mary is marrying within her tribal house and family (kingly).  
(Lk.1:26-27) "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child."

Mary believes that God has prepared her and Joseph through spiritual growth in the word of God for this institutional merging in their lives.

(1 Cor.7:39b) "She is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."  
(2 Cor.6:14) They are both pledged to the Lord first and to each other second.

(Matt.19:5-6) "For this cause a man **shall leave** his father and mother, and **shall cleave** to his wife; and **the two shall become one flesh**. Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

### **2. Mary and Joseph are both spiritually mature (Super Grace) believers.**

**Joseph** (Matt.1:19a) "And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man."  
**Mary** (Luke 1:28) "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

They have the spiritual capacity for any assignment in the plan of God, yet they will both struggle with the unexpected test given to them by God.

(1 Cor.10:13) "No temptation (test, trial) has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide a way of escape also, **that you may be able to endure it**."

**Gabriel to Mary:** "Do not be afraid" (Matt.1:30) [RMA]; "**For nothing is impossible with God**." (Matt.1:37)  
**Gabriel to Joseph:** "Do not be afraid." (Matt.1:20) [RMA]; "Because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matt.1:20b)

**Mary to Gabriel:** "Be done to me according to your word." (Matt.1:38) [FRT]

**Joseph to Gabriel:** "He did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him." (Matt.1:24) [FRT]

**3. Like Gabriel's message to Zachariah, this one also has two parts: you part (Lk.1:31) [3 wills] and He part (Lk.1:32-33) [5 wills].**

Like Zachariah, she got stuck with the “**you**” part and glazed over the “**He**” part.

(Lk.1:34) “How can this be, since I am a virgin (epeí aner ouk ginosko/ p.a.ind 1ps) since I do not know a man sexually?” (euphemism) (Gen.4:1, 17)

Gabriel explains the miraculous conception by Holy Spirit to Mary (Lk.1:35) as well as the supernatural conception by Zachariah to barren Elizabeth (Lk.1:36).

Virgin birth requires understanding and applying the essence of God to it.

(Lk.1:37) “For nothing will be impossible **with God**.”

(Rom.4:21) “And being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”

**[See other studies on the Essence of God]**

She is a pledged virgin to the Lord first and to Joseph second even engaged (1 Cor.7:35).

Next Gabriel explains her child's two fathers and neither of them Joseph – “He will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.” (Lk.1:32; 6:35; 8:28; Acts 16:17)

This helps us understand Lk.3:23 – “And when he began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly the son of Joseph, the son of Eli.”

She obeys without challenging the word of God or Gabriel's authority like the priest Zachariah (Lk.1:18-20).

**4. The only love that is strong enough to survive this type of relationship challenge will come from their spiritual growth capacity to trust the love and sovereignty of God.**

Mary's love for Joseph is secondary to her love for God. Mary believes that the Lord's love for her will survive anything (1 John 4:16-19).

She probably never considered that Joseph would withdraw his love from her.

Mary probably never believed that Joseph wouldn't believe her and withdraw his love from her.

She probably never thought that she would be abandoned for doing God's will and especially not by another spiritually mature believer who had declared his undying love for her when she said -“Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” (Lk.1:38)

(1 Pet.1:7) “That the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

# Merry Christmas