

Mary – Thinking through God’s Will

From the moment Gabriel appeared to Mary, her life changed drastically, in ways that only God could cause to happen. She reflects the divine agenda through her use of the optative mood indicating that anything is possible and she is on board with whatever God desires of her. His will for her unfolded over many years and we are allowed into her thinking process as she seeks to fully understand and clarify her vision of God’s will. The Old Testament taught two aspects of the Messiah’s coming:

- a) He would come to establish the Davidic Kingdom, freeing Israel from the rule of other nations
- b) He would die to pay for the sins of the world, be buried and resurrected.

The overwhelming emphasis in the 1st Century was the kingdom, freeing them from Roman rule, with the sacrificial lamb being forgotten and suppressed. Mary knows both of these prophetic principles and spends much of her life reconciling how these two concepts fit together.

Lk 1:26-38 Gabriel’s Message - Mary’s Response

Lk.1:26-28 Greetings one who has given grace

Lk.1:29 greatly disturbed – **diatarasso** – thrown into a state of confusion, anxiety, consternation
Aor/Pass/Ind – Aorist tense – immediately; Passive – the situation caught her off guard & she reacted

- Often when God reveals His will, changes our lives drastically, we are initially thrown into a state of confusion, anxiety or even grief – especially if He announces through Gabriel.
- Drastic changes to circumstances can easily evoke a state of confusion & anxiety
- Confusion and shock is normally a brief stage caused by the sudden change and the realizations of what obeying God’s will might cost us – could have cost Mary all that she valued.

Lk.1:29 – wondering – pondering – **dialogizomai** – to think through different aspects of an issue to unify them into a conclusion that explains the situation. Dia – through; logizomai – logical thought

- Mary’s initial response to Gabriel – confused and anxious – many women live in a perpetual state of emotional confusion and anxiety – no doctrine enabling them to think.
- Mary moved quickly from confusion/shock to considering the possibilities of her situation by thinking things through with what she knew about God and His messengers.
- She prepared herself to hear the message by thinking with the truth she had in her soul.

Lk.1:29 – might be – eimi P/A Opt – the optative mood indicates any possibility of what this might be.
Opt – Indicative – reality; Subjunctive – probability/possibility; Optative – wishful; unlimited

- Angels appearing was not part of Mary’s common daily experience - subjunctive – possible
- This even was outside of her own personal experience – she wasn’t sure what this could mean
- She uses the optative to indicate that this was beyond normal experience and could be anything

Lk.1:30-33 Gabriel’s message – favor with God; conceive in womb; Jesus; throne of David & Jacob

Lk.1:34 – how will this happen? Zacharias – rebuked for his question

- Mary’s question was asked in faith, seeking to understand God’s will, ex. Zach’s question was asked in doubt, seeking proof that what he was hearing was true.
- God welcomes questions seeking clarifications about His will that enable us to do His will.
- God rejects questions coming from doubt and unbelief seeking proof of His will.
- Once we submit to God’s will, He is gracious to give us wisdom about living out His will

Lk.1:38 – handmaid of the Lord – doule – female slave belonging to the Lord

- Mary identifies herself as a slave who belongs to God and owes Him total obedience

Lk.1:38 – may it be – **ginomai** – to become – to come about indicating how life goes

A/M/Opt – optative opens mind to any & all possibilities – nothing is impossible with God

- Once Mary heard the will of God, she submitted to Him & declared herself ready & willing for whatever He had in mind, wherever His will would take her.
- She was willing to give up anything/everything she valued in her human agenda to accomplish whatever the Lord needed from her – Joseph, approval, reputation

Lk 2:8-19 - Shepherds hear about Messiah nearby in the barn – visit him

Lk 2:19 – treasured – suntereo – to guard, preserve, and keep in memory Imp/f/A/I – kept on guarding

- Even having Gabriel’s message, she is surprised by these events & words – burned into memory
- She kept every detail and used these events as part of the puzzle she was putting together

Lk 2:19 – pondering – **sumballo** – P/A/Ptc – while pondering – she was taking in and thinking through **sumballo** – to throw together – to throw these different events & ideas back & forth seeking to reach a conclusion about the way God’s will is rolling down in her life. Mary continued seeking to understand how God’s will was working out in her life.

Lk 2:47-48 – astonished – **ekplessomai** A/P/Ind – to be knocked out of your wits - **existemi** to be placed out of your normal logic of mind – She saw Him and was knocked out of her wits. Why did you do this to us; Your father and I looking for you

- The fear of losing Him & the shock of finding Him unconcerned knocked her out of her mind.
- She has lost her spiritual perspective & is speaking as a mother from her human agenda.

1. Mary had 2 almost irreconcilable biblical principles about Messiah that she was forced to understand and combine together as His will unfolded in her life.

- a. Conquering King (Zacharias) & Suffering Servant (Lk 2:27-35) – difficult to combine
- b. Mary was trying to think through (**dialogizomai** – **sumballo**) combine ideas into one

2. Only the soul surrendered to God’s will can expect to receive answers to clarifying questions.

- a. Jam 1:5-8 prayer for wisdom about God’s will – ask believing or get nothing
- b. Mary is asking and trying to put the puzzle together to know how this would go down

3. Sudden changes and frightful announcements of God’s will often will confuse & shock us until we can begin using truth to think through the puzzle pieces.

4. God desires that we submit to Him knowing we are His servants, designed to do His will.

- a. Doule – female slave/servant; doulos – male slave/servant Paul

5. The scriptures often express what appears to be a paradox, an unresolvable contradiction that is stated to be the truth.

- a. Grace – God does all the work & yet we are called upon to do works as His children.
- b. God the Holy Spirit – can’t see, hear or feel Him, yet He assures us in our spirit that we are children of God
- c. These paradoxes are resolved over time and through biblical knowledge/wisdom as we grow.
- d. Mary will finally be able to resolve these “inconsistencies” as they finally unfolded.