

THE MIRACULOUS GIFT OF MOTHERHOOD

My 2016 Christmas special series is entitled, First Christmas Gift. This title came from Jane. She mentioned to me that she heard someone ask, "What was the first Christmas gift?" As Christians, we immediately thought of Jesus Christ. But as I thought about this question, I realized that it might depend on whom the first gift was bestowed. For Mary, it might have been the Miraculous Gift of Motherhood as declared in our lesson text.

<p>This lesson will study four aspects of the Miraculous Gift of Motherhood given to Mary.</p>

1. We will examine our lesson text by dividing it into three sections:

- Salutation of God (Lk.1:26-31)
- Son of God (Lk.1:32-34)
- Spirit of God (Lk.1:35-38).

In the salutation section, note at least five aspects of the Directive Will of God regarding Mary's role:

- **The Salutation in (Lk.1:26-31)** "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, 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."
- **Note Mary's response in (Lk.1:29)** "Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

In the Son of God section, note at least five aspects of the outline of the role of God in the Directive Will of God.

- **The Directive Will of God. (Lk.1:32-33)** "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 Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
- **Note Mary's response in (Lk.1:34)** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

In the Spirit of God section of the Miraculous Gift of Motherhood, note at least five aspects of the role of the Holy Spirit in the execution of the Directive Will of God.

- **The Directive Will of God. (Lk.1:35-37)** "The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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 unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."
- **Note Mary's response in (Lk.1:38)** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her".

2. Mary was chosen by God to fulfill the prophecy of (Gen.3:15) and the lineage of prophetic mothers of Christ in human history (Lk.1:28-30).

This lineage of prophetic mothers of Christ began with Eve [The mother of all living] (1 Cor.15:45).

Mary was the last of 75 prophetic mothers of Christ (Lk.3:23-38).

(Gal.4:4) “But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman**, born under the Law.”

Mary is listed along with four prophetic mothers of Christ in (Matt.1:1-17) (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba).

3. Mary will fulfill also Isaiah’s prophecy of the virgin conception (Isa.7:14).

The Directive Will of God for Mary:

- (Lk.1:31) “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Immanuel.”
- (Lk.1:35) “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

Mary’s response:

- (Lk.1:38) “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The Directive Will of God for Joseph:

- (Matt.1:20-23) “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this took place **to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet**: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with Child and shall bear to a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us.’” (Isa.7:14)

Joseph’s response:

- (Matt.1:24-25) “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus”.

Questions:

- Did you notice that it was Joseph’s decision to not have sex with Mary until after the birth of Jesus?
- Did you know that Joseph and Mary had several children after Jesus (Matt.12:46-47; 13:55-56; Acts 1:14)?

4. Mary was chosen because she was a spiritually mature “Super Grace” believer.

As a “Super Grace” believer, this was her moment for having historical impact in the Plan of God.

Mary did not reach “Super Grace” status because she had a baby any more than Eve.

Through the consistent inhale and exhale of the Directive Will of God she reached and maintained spiritual maturity and “Super Grace” status. In so doing she had this great opportunity to fulfill the Prophetic Word of God which the world had been waiting centuries for. (2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Pet.3:18).

Conclusion:

Jesus was the Only Begotten Son of God, not Mary. While on the cross, Jesus said **to Mary**, “Woman, behold, your son!” (John 19:26) and then said **to John**, “Behold, your mother!” (John 19:27)

Mary and Jesus were both born for this moment of historical impact in the Plan of God.

Mary became 1 of 120 members of the Christian Church (Acts 1:14; Gal.3:28).

Whereas motherhood is not a necessary fulfillment of womanhood, anymore than marriage, divorce or widowhood is, Spiritual Growth Maturity and reaching “Super Grace” status is necessary in the Christian Way of Life!

We all have the opportunity to have historical impact in the Christian Way of Life **starting this Christmas!**

(Eph.3:14-21) “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”.

(Eph.3:4:13) “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”.

Equality in Christ

(Gal.3:28) “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”.

MARY’S FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT