

# MARY, THE GOD-BEARER

Part 1 of See What God Has Done. Luke 1:26-38.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. December 15, 2024.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT MARY

### Let's talk about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

- I may have downplayed Mary's significance in the past.
- However, there is great spiritual value in reflecting on Mary's life and her role in God's salvation plan.

## LUKE 1:26-38

### Mary had a life-changing encounter with the angel Gabriel.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

30 Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

34 Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man? "

35 The angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 And consider your relative Elizabeth — even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 "See, I am the Lord's servant," said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

# REFLECTING ON MARY

## 1. Mary had high friends in lowly places.

- Mary lived in Nazareth, a village of 500 people in the hills of Galilee.
- Nazareth had no political, military, or religious importance. “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” John 1:46 (CSB) was a catchphrase in Jesus’ day.
- Gabriel is a mighty spirit-being who “stands in God’s presence” (Luke 1:19).
- God sends angels to earth with important messages at crucial moments.
- How did Mary find herself at the unfolding of God’s salvation plan?

## 2. Mary was an ordinary girl in an extraordinary moment.

- Mary was around 13 years old, waiting for her wedding day.
- The phrases, “favored woman” and “found favor with God” tell us that God chose Mary for a unique role in his salvation plan.
- She would be the mother of the incarnate God, the Savior of the world.
- Mark Lowry’s song: “Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you
- Mary needed a Savior, just as we do. She was an ordinary girl in an extraordinary moment.

### **3. Mary was a virgin who birthed a son.**

- Mary was engaged but she had not slept with Joseph.
- She was the virgin promised in Isaiah 7:

Isaiah 7:14 (CSB) Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

- The clump of cells growing inside her was Immanuel - God with us.
- Verses 32 and 35 tell us that Jesus was both son of David and son of God, human and divine, the God-Man.
- The doctrine of the Incarnation of the Son of God described two natures in one unique Person. “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see...” Mary became the God-Bearer, *theotokos*.

### **4. Mary was young but spiritually mature.**

- She was surrendered to God and his will for her life (verse 38).
- Her heart was filled with godly faith and obedience.

## **A WONDERFUL ROLE MODEL**

### **Mary is a model for us to imitate.**

- She responded in faith-filled surrender and obedience to play her part in God’s salvation plan. We should imitate that.
- God gave Mary favor or grace to remain faithful despite the cost. He does the same for us.

### **Reflect on Mary all year.**

- And ask the Lord to fill you with Mary-like faith and devotion to Jesus even when it’s hard or costly to follow him.

# EXPLORING THE INCARNATION

With help from Perplexity.ai

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became human while remaining divine. This means that Jesus is truly God and truly man, God from God, Light from Light, begotten, not created.

Christians believe that through the Incarnation, Jesus bridged the gap between humanity and God, making it possible for people to have a restored relationship with their Creator. Jesus experienced the full range of human experiences and temptations, allowing Him to empathize with our struggles and eventually carry our sins to the cross.

The Incarnation has several practical applications for Christians:

- It provides hope for salvation. God cannot die, but Jesus' human nature allowed Him to die as the final atoning sacrifice for sins.
- It reminds us that God is not distant. Rather, he is present with us.
- It serves as a model of humility and self-sacrifice.
- It offers comfort in times of hardship. Knowing that Jesus experienced human suffering helps believers feel understood and supported by God.

For more information and insights into the Incarnation:

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-incarnation>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/incarnation-of-Christ.html>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-incarnation/>