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Mary, Pt. 1

Mary the mother of Jesus has to be the most privileged woman that has ever lived, as she was chosen by God to bear the Son of God in her womb, but equally she bore a sword in her heart with all the difficulties that accompanied the call.

One writer declared that Mary was the only mother in the world that ever found it an impossibility to make an idol of her child.

All other mothers have to guard against that sin, throughout their lives!

We want begin our study of Mary by looking at the annunciation of Gabriel to Mary as described by Luke, it is to him we own the greater detail of this event as well the birth of Jesus.

Matthew begins with the crisis of her pregnancy and Gabriel's revelation to Joseph of it being God's work, Mark and John do not give us the annunciation or birth of Christ but simply begin with the ministry of John and the baptism of Jesus.

There is a threefold movement in the annunciation to Mary. Luke 1:26-56

- I. Mary and Gabriel. vs. 26-38
- II. Mary and Elizabeth. vs. 39-45
- III. Mary and God. vs. 46-56

I. Mary and Gabriel: The communication. vs. 26-38

A. The visitation to Mary. vs. 26-29

1. The person announcing the birth of the Messiah is Gabriel, who was sent from God and stands in the presence of God. vs. 26, 19
2. The place was the city of Nazareth in Galilee. vs. 26
 - a. Nazareth is in a valley in lower Galilee, southwest of the Sea of Galilee and north of the great Plain of Esdraelon.
 - b. The city is around 80 miles from Jerusalem.
 - c. Therefore merchants of Greece as well as Roman soldiers were not uncommon nor the sinful life-style practiced by them.
 - * That is why Nathaniel said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Jn. 1:46
3. The person visited was a virgin. vs. 27
 - a. She was betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. Matt. 1:18
 - b. The virgin in named Mary.
 - c. She was a virgin "parthenos" sexually pure from intercourse.
 - d. She was betrothed, the period of engagement of one year prior to the consummation which was as binding as marriage and needed a writing of divorce to be dissolved.
 - * So a woman could be a widow who was a virgin if the man died prior

- to the consummation of the marriage.
- e. She was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:23
 - 1) There are two words for virgin in Hebrew.
 - 2) Bethulah is a virgin not betrothed or espoused. Gen. 24:16
 - 3) Alma describes a virgin betrothed or espoused. Gen. 24:43
 - f. She was espoused to Joseph, a righteous man, carpenter, supposed father of Jesus. Matt. 13:55, Mk. 6:3
4. The salutation to Mary was "Rejoice, highly favored, the Lord is with you". vs. 28
- a. Her rejoicing was to be in the fact that God had graciously and sovereignly chosen her!
 - * She was the recipient of grace, not the source or dispenser of grace!
 - b. Her confidence was to be in the fact that God was with her.
 - c. Her privilege was in the fact that she had been blessed among women, not above women!
 - 1) The word blessed "eulegeo" means well spoken of and we get our word eulogy from it.
 - 2) The same word is used by Elizabeth for Mary. vs. 42
 - * Mary was a chosen as a vessel unto honor not by virtue of her own merit or sinlessness as she will confess herself in her song!

5. The perplexity in her mind and heart was great over the manner of greeting. vs. 29
 - a. Mary was probably a young girl of about 14-16 years of age.
 - b. Mary was not of the wealthy class but of the poor.
 - c. The word consider "dialogizomia" means to bring together different reasons, to reckon up the reasons, to revolve in one's mind and deliberate.
- B. The revelation to Mary. vs. 30-33**
1. The personal privilege is revealed. vs. 30-31
 - a. She was not to be afraid but for she had found favor with God. vs. 30
 - b. She would conceive in her womb and bring forth a son. vs. 31a
 - c. She was to call his name Jesus. vs. 31b
 - * Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name, Joshua which is the contraction of Jehovah is salvation.
 2. The prophetic accuracy revealed. vs. 32-33
 - a. He would be great and will be called the Son of the Highest, describes who He was to be. vs. 32a-b
 - b. He would be given the throne of His father David, describes what He was to obtain. vs. 32c
 - c. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever, described the extent of His reign. vs. 33a

- d. His kingdom shall never end, describes the duration of His kingdom. vs. 33b
- 1) He shall save His people from their sins. Matt. 1:21
 - 2) His name is Immanuel, God with us. Matt. 1:23
* 2Sam. 7:14-16, Is. 9:6-7
 - 3) He is God, the Son of God, the second person of Trinity, co-equal with the Father and eternal! 1Tim. 3:16
* Mary had to of been stunned and humbled by this privilege revealed to her!

C. The explanation to Mary. vs. 34-38

1. The petition asked by Mary was basic. vs. 34
 - a. How can there be, since I do not know a man?
 - b. How could she conceive a child never having had sex with a man and still a virgin?
2. The proclamation declared by the angel. vs. 35
 - a. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the highest will overshadow you. vs. 35a-c
* It was to be a divine work, not human!
 - b. The word overshadow means to envelope and is used five times in the New Testament.
 - 1) It appears three times in the account of the Mount of

- Transfiguration. Matt. 17:5, Mk. 9:7, Lk. 9:34
- 2) One time in Acts for the shadow of Peter and the healing of people. Acts 5:15
 - 3) One time here in Matthew.
3. The person to be born, was to be the Holy One, called the Son of God. vs. 35d-g
 - a. Here was to be the fulfillment of the promise to Adam and Eve, “the seed of the woman”, without a man!. Gen. 3:15
 - b. Scripture confirms this faithfully. Rom. 8:3, 2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 7:26
 - c. No sin nature was in Jesus, the Last Adam. 1Cor. 15:45
 4. The personal consolation to Mary. vs. 36-37
 - a. Elizabeth her relative who was barren had also conceived and was six months pregnant. vs. 36
* Elizabeth was a second cousins to Mary!
 - b. Elizabeth’s conception and hers were God’s doing, for nothing is impossible for God. vs. 37
 5. The personal submission of Mary to God's will. vs. 38
 - a. Her perspective was that she saw herself as the slave to God by choice.
 - 1) The phrase maidservant “doule” appears three times in the New Testament. vs. 38, 48, Acts 2:18
 - 2) The prophecy of Joel. Joel 2

- b. Her priority was God's will and purposes, "Let it be to me according to your word".
- c. Her personal commitment to was to risk disgrace, divorce and defamation of character for God purposes.
 - * The very same kind of living sacrifice the her own son would yield to in His prayer at Gathsemane.

Illustration

When James Calvert went out to cannibal Fiji with the message of the Gospel, the captain of the ship in which he traveled sought to dissuade him. "You will risk your life and all those with you if you go among such savages," he said. Calvert's magnificent reply was, "We died before we came here." #5185

Application

1. God will visited each of us throughout our lives to be used by him but each time we must yield, He does not force anyone.
 - * We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...Eph. 2:10
2. God will come to us in our own Nazareth, wherever that might be.
 - * What would you have your servant ot do Lord? Acts 9
3. God calls us despite of our selves not because of ourselves.
 - * "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, `We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do." Lk. 17:10

Mary and Gabriel gives us the communication!

II. Mary and Elizabeth: The confirmation. vs. 39-45

A. Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth. vs. 39-41

1. Mary went from Nazareth to the city of Judah.
 - a. The hill country Hebron, which was in times past called Kirjatharba, which was one of the towns that were given to the Levites, a city of the priests, which was situated in the tribe of Judah, about forty miles south of Jerusalem, and upwards of seventy from Nazareth. Jos. 14:15, 21:11
 - b. The manner in which she went is said to be "with haste" referring to the earnestness of her mind and diligence to visit her relative Elisabeth, and to see what the Lord had wrought for her.
2. Mary entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. vs. 40
 - a. Zacharias was her husband.
 - 1) Zacharias was of the priestly order and had been in the temple according to his course when the angle Gabriel appeared to him and told him of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Lk. 1:5-25

- 2) The child to be born would be John the Baptist, to prepare the way of the Messiah.
 - 3) Zacharias was dumb and could not speak till the birth of his son, due to his doubting. Lk. 1:20
 - b. Elizabeth was well advance in years as Zacharias. Lk. 1:7
 - * Elizabeth was six month into her pregnancy. vs. 36
 - 3. Mary's voice caused the babe to leap in Elizabeth's womb. vs. 41
 - a. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The prophecy was that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. Lk. 1:15
 - c. The Spirit bearing witness with their Spirits the work of God in both of them.
- B. Mary is honored by her cousin Elizabeth. vs. 42-45**
- 1. Elizabeth confirmed what the angel Gabriel told her. vs. 42
 - a. Blessed are you among women. vs. 28e
 - b. Blessed is the fruit of your womb! vs. 32b, 35f
 - * The Son of the Highest and Son of God!
 - 2. Elizabeth confessed her unworthiness before her. vs. 43
 - a. Confessing her privilege, "Why is this granted to me". vs. 43a

- b. Confessing her to be the mother of her personal Lord. vs. 43b
- 3. Elizabeth celebrated her experience with Mary. vs. 44, 45
 - a. She told her of the correlation between her voice and the babe leaping in her womb. vs. 44
 - b. She spoke well of her for believing God's messenger and that all would come to pass. vs. 45

Illustration

Gideon was sent by God down to the camp of the Medianites that he might hear the dream of one of the soldiers to confirm that God was going to use him to defeat them and it would encourage him. Judges 7:9

Application

- 1. Do you do with haste the things that God calls you to do or do you procrastinate?
 - * Nehemiah prayed that God would use him as the kings cupbearer. Neh. 1:11
- 2. Do you bear witness with the spirit of other Christians as you confirm the things of God?
 - * We are not to compare ourselves by ourselves or among ourselves, lest we be unwise. 2Cor. 10:12
- 3. Do you recognize the place of honor that God has given to others, if so, what is your attitude?
 - * Jesus said to take the lower seat not the one in front lest you be asked to sit in the back, "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. Lk. 14:10

Mary and Elizabeth gives us the confirmation!

III. Mary and God: The exaltation. vs. 46-56

A. Mary gave all glory to God. vs. 46-50

1. She sang a song known as “The Magnificate” in the Latin Vulgate.
 - * Some have compared it to Hannah's song of triumph in the face of her enemy. 1Sam. 2:1-10
2. She in her soul magnified or declared the greatness of her Lord. vs. 46
3. She in her spirit rejoiced in God her Savior. vs. 47
 - a. Mary confessed to her own need of a Savior.
 - b. Mary confessed to her own sinfulness and sin nature as all others.
 - c. Mary was not a perpetual virgin nor was she sinless. Matt. 13:55-56, 1:25
4. She acknowledge her own lowliness and God sovereign choosing of her and that all future generations would call her blessed. vs. 48
 - * To be declared blessed by God, not that she was the source of blessings!
5. She declared that God who is mighty had done great things for her and He was holy. vs. 49
 - a. The pregnancy was by the power of God not human.
 - b. The holiness of God insured the purity of the work.

6. She proclaims the mercy of God on all who fear Him in every generation. vs. 50

B. Mary gave God’s past works of glory. vs. 51-56

1. God has been strong against the imaginations of the proud. vs. 51
2. God has removed the mighty from their thrones and exalted the humble. vs. 52
3. God has met the needs of the poor and removed the things of the rich. vs. 53
4. God has helped Israel, His servant in view of His mercy. vs. 54
 - * Gen. 15, 17
5. God did all this in faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham. vs. 55

C. Mary gave of her time to Elizabeth. vs. 56

1. She remained with her three months. vs. 56a
 - a. That would of made her nine months pregnant.
 - b. That would of made Mary three months pregnant.
 - * Whether she was present at the birth of John is not stated!
2. She returned to her house. vs. 56b
 - a. To be looked down on by many.
 - b. To bear the sword God called her to bear.

Illustration

“I asked God for strength, that I might achieve--I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.”

I asked for help, that I might do greater things--I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy--I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men--I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life--I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for--but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.”

Anonymous soldier of the Confederacy

Application

1. We have to always remember to give God all the glory. 1Cor. 1:26-31

2. We have to always remember the past works of God, lest we are prone not only to take the credit, but to trust in our own strength. Eph. 6:10, Phil. 4:13

3. We have to be givers of ourselves to others out of love and not merely takers all the time. Jn. 13:35

4. We have to die to self daily or we will be of no good to anyone, most of all to God.

* :A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher”.
Lk. 6:40

Mary and God gives us the exaltation!

Conclusion

There is a threefold movement in the annunciation to Mary.

- I. Mary and Gabriel, the communication!
- II. Mary and Elizabeth, the confirmation!
- III. Mary and God, the exaltation!