

family matters

a mother of God's choice

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. ³²He 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 ³³and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The 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. ³⁶Even 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. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is His name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:26-56

why mary?

- saw herself as the Lord's servant (v. 38)
- believed the Lord (v. 45)
- praised the Lord (v. 46)
- found her joy in the Lord (v. 47)
- humble (v. 48)
- recognized God (v. 49)

how does mary view God?

holy (v. 49)

merciful (v. 50)

all powerful (v. 51)

just (v. 51b-52)

good (v. 53)

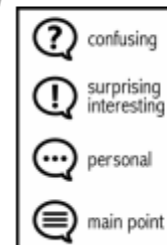
unchanging (v. 55b)

mary's only command

"Do whatever he tells you." John 2:5b

next steps

NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.



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