

“Maidservant of the Lord”

Luke 1:26-38

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Job Posting: **“Wanted-- Mother of the Messiah”**
 - Posted back in the Garden of Eden
 - Genesis 3:15-- *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*
 - Left Unfulfilled for Centuries-
 - Genesis 4:1-- *“I have acquired a man from the LORD.”*
 - Heightened anticipation in the Prophets
 - Isaiah 7:14-- *“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*
 - Isaiah 9:6-7-- *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*
 - Signs of near fulfillment-- Zechariah and John the Baptist

Maidservant of the Lord-- Mary

- Luke 1:26-28-- *“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’”*
1. **She is at the “right place” at the “right time”!**
 - a. **Galilee and Nazareth were consider the most unlikely place by the Jews.**
 - 1) Division of the land
 - 2) Problems with Galilee
 - John 7:41-- *“some said, ‘Will the Christ come out of Galilee?’*
 - John 1:46-- *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”*
 - 3) The “rough” town of Nazareth
 - b. **Prophetic prediction**
 - Isaiah 9:1-2-- *“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.”*
 2. **She is a chaste, engaged woman**
 - Luke 1:27-- *“to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.”*
 - Luke 1:34-- *“Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’”*

- a. **Faithful to the Covenant she had made**
- b. **Prepared vessel to bring Messiah into the world**
 - Isaiah 7:14-- *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call his name Immanuel."*
- c. **We are to be "prepared vessels fit for the Master's use"**
 - 2 Timothy 2:21-22-- *"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*

3. **She is the recipient of God's Grace**

- Luke 1:28-- *"And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'"*
- a. **Meaning of "highly favored"**
- b. **Her need for grace? Needed a "savior"**
 - Luke 1:46-47-- *"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior"*
- c. **Current veneration of Mary in the Roman church.**
- d. **Application: All of us are recipients of God's grace which saves.**
 - Ephesians 1:6-- *"To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved!"*

4. **She lived in fellowship with the Lord**

- Luke 1:28-- *"And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'"*
- Luke 1:30-- *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

5. **She was 'blessed among women'**

- Luke 1:28 -- *"And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'"*
- a. **Textual problem, as words are not in the NIV or NASB**
- b. **Ways in which she is 'blessed among women'**
 - Luke 1:30-38-- *"Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."*
- 1) **She pondered the meaning of the message and came to the right conclusions.**
 - Luke 1:29-- *"But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was."*
 - Luke 1:34-- *"Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"*

2) **She believed God could do the impossible**

- Luke 1:35-37-- *"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."*

3) **She willfully submitted herself to doing God's Will**

- Luke 1:38--*"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."*

c. **Jesus corrects 1st century worshippers of Mary**

- Luke 11:27-- *"Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You."*
- Luke 11:28 -- *"But he said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.'"*

You and I as Servants of the Lord?

- We are in the "right place" at the "right time"!
- *Are we living a chaste life?*
- *Are we living in fellowship or partnership with the Lord?*
- *Are we pondering the truth of God and coming to the right conclusions?*
- *Are we believing God can do the impossible?*
- *Are we submitting to obeying God's will?*
- *Have you received the saving grace of God?*
 - Ephesians 2:8-9-- *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*