

CHRISTMAS
GOD'S CHOICE OF CHRIST'S PARENTS
LUKE 1:26-38, MATTHEW 1:18-25

Introduction:

We saw last week how that **JESUS'** true **GENEALOGY** was a **HEAVENLY ONE!** **HE** existed before **HE** was ever **MADE FLESH!** **HE WAS** and **IS THE ETERNAL GOD THE SON!**

But we know that when **GOD** sent **HIS SON** into the world, **HE CHOSE** two **HUMAN PARENTS** to **NURTURE HIM** and **BRING HIM** up. Now understand that we have very little information given to us in the **BIBLE** about **MARY** and **JOSEPH!**

So some might question, why did **GOD** choose **MARY** to **BARE HIS SON** and **MARY** and **JOSEPH** to **RAISE HIS SON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?** Well, the information we do have from **SCRIPTURE** shows us some things to consider in this young couple's life.

I. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE PURE! (Luke 1:26-27)

A. Mary Had Never Been Touched By A Man Sexually. (Luke 1:26-27)

This is unmistakably and clearly stated. She confirmed the fact herself in *vs. 34*.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied in *Isaiah 7:14*—*“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

There are some who would argue that the Hebrew word translated “*virgin*” means a young woman who could have a questionable character. In fact, there are perversions of the **WORD OF GOD** that translate it as “*young woman.*”

However, if you study this word out, you will find that it is used six times in the **BIBLE** and in each instance the context is clear that **it refers to a young woman with pure character.**

B. Mary Was Espoused To Joseph. (Vs 27)

Being espoused was somewhat like our engagement, except it was more binding. The espousal period lasted for one year.

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Two things are important as we consider Mary's virginity:

- 1. In The Espousal Period Sexual Contact Was Considered Adultery And Resulted In Being Stoned!**
- 2. The Espousal Was So Serious A Matter That If It Was Broken A Divorce Had To Be Secured.**

C. Mary And Joseph Were Both Godly!

They were not sinless, but they were godly and allowed themselves to be available to God for His highest purpose! God could and did choose them to be the parents of His Son. (*2 Timothy 2:20-21*)

It doesn't make sense that **GOD** would have chosen an immoral woman to bear and rear **HIS SON** or an immoral man to be over the household **HIS SON** was to be raised in, not when **HE** had the power to control the events.

There are two lessons that young people need to learn from the **PURITY** of **MARY** and **JOSEPH:**

- 1) GOD** expects both men and women to be sexually pure, untouched by a man or woman in an immoral manner until they are married.
- 2) GOD** is looking for pure men and women to use in the ministry of the **GOSPEL** and in meeting the desperate needs of the world.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7—*“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour....For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”*

Ephesians 5:3—*“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.”*

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BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE PURE!

II. MARY WAS HIGHLY FAVORED! (Vs 28)

Three simple, yet meaningful things were said to **MARY**.

A. MARY Was Highly Favored by GOD! (Vs 28a, Cf. Vs. 30)

Note that the **ANGEL** did not immediately tell **MARY** how she was "*highly favored*" by **GOD** in that she was **GOD'S CHOICE** to **BARE** and to **BE THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH!** That came later in the conversation.

The **ANGEL** had to give her time to adjust to the shock of his spectacular appearance. He simply announced that she was "*highly favored*" by **GOD**—a unique privilege.

Just think! **GOD FAVORS US TOO! HE SAVES US, GIFTS US, and USES US FOR HIS GLORY!** We are **FAVORED** by the **GOD** of the universe. What an awesome privilege that is! But, what an awesome responsibility it is also!

B. The LORD Was With MARY! (Vs 28b)

The **LORD** was with **MARY**, because **MARY** had a relationship with **GOD**. When you have **GOD** in your life, you do not walk through life alone.

GOD had been with her (past).

GOD was with her (present).

GOD would be with her (future).

No matter where **MARY** had to walk or what she had to do, **GOD** promised to be with her.

If you are saved, aren't you glad the **LORD** is with you? **HE** has promised to never leave us nor forsake us!

C. MARY Was BLESSED Among Women! (Vs 28c)

Note that it doesn't say that she was to be **BLESSED above women**, but **AMONG WOMEN**.

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The **ANGEL** was not saying that **MARY** should be worshiped. She was a sinner who was saved by the very **SAVIOR** that she bore in her womb! (Vs 47)

In *verse 45*, **ELIZABETH** said that **MARY** was blessed. In *verse 48*, **MARY** said that future generations would call her **BLESSED**.

MARY AND JOSEPH WERE PURE...MARY WAS HIGHLY FAVORED

III. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE HUMAN!

A. We See The Humanity Of MARY. (Luke 1:29-30)

Mary was both troubled and stricken with fear. Now I think that we can all understand why she was afraid. An angelic being from **GOD** stood before her. He stood in all the dazzling splendor that is necessary to reveal that he was truly from **GOD!**

The fact that **MARY** was troubled needs to be briefly considered.

1. MARY was "troubled at his saying".

(i.e. At what the ANGEL told her.)

It was the message that caused her to be troubled, the fact that...

- *she was highly favored.*
- *the LORD was with her.*
- *she was blessed among women.*

2. MARY no doubt was troubled because she did not understand how GOD could so highly FAVOR a person like herself.

She never expected to be highly favored by **HIM**. What we see here that there is a deep humility in **MARY'S** character.

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MARY was not a proud, self-centered, flighty, or a frivolous young lady who was conscious of herself or felt that she merited and deserved the attention of others.

She was a young lady who loved **GOD** and had determined to live a pure and responsible life. From her response throughout this passage, we can sense that she had a sweet spirit that was full of softness, warmth, and tenderness, and was responsive and willing, subjective and giving, thoughtful and kind.

MARY, however, didn't see herself as anyone special. So, when she heard that **GOD** had **FAVORED** her and would use her in a very special way, she was troubled. How could she, just an ordinary and humble maiden, do anything special for **GOD**?

B. We See The Humanity Of Joseph. (Matthew 1:18-25)

The news reached **JOSEPH** that **MARY** was pregnant! **JOSEPH** knew that he wasn't the father. (Remember we said he was **PURE**.)

We don't know all of the thoughts that may have run through **JOSEPH'S** mind at this time. But we do know that **JOSEPH**, who loved **MARY**, would have been devastated.

But we see his character in *verse 19*. The **BIBLE** says that he was a "**JUST**" or **RIGHTEOUS man**. Being a **RIGHTEOUS** man, naturally he would divorce her, but he would do it quietly so as not to publicly embarrass her. He would do what was right, but he would do it in a kind way!

While he was thinking about just quietly divorcing her, and going his own way devastated, he fell asleep and the **ANGEL OF THE LORD** appeared unto him in a dream.

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He was told in *verse 20* to "**fear not**" to take **MARY** as his wife because that which was conceived in her was of the **HOLY GHOST**.

Verse 25 says that when he woke up, he obeyed the voice of the **ANGEL OF THE LORD** and took **MARY** to be his wife.

MARY AND JOSEPH WERE PURE...MARY WAS HIGHLY FAVORED...BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE HUMAN...

IV. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE TOLD THAT MARY WOULD BEAR THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD!

(Luke 1:31-33)

A. MARY was told three things about the SON she would bear:

1. She Was Told What To Name Him JESUS! (Vs 31)

2. She Was Told Of His GREAT PERSONAGE! (Vs 32-33)

a. HE was to be called THE SON OF THE HIGHEST! (Vs 32a)

The **HIGHEST**, of course, is **GOD**! Therefore, **JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD**, that is, of the very nature of **GOD**. **HE WAS and IS GOD** made flesh!

As **PAUL** says in *Romans 9:5*—He is "**over all, God blessed for ever. Amen**"

b. HE was to receive the THRONE of DAVID! (Vs 32b)

Humanly speaking **JESUS** was of the house and lineage of **DAVID**. This indicates that **JOSEPH** and **MARY** were descendants of **DAVID**; therefore, **CHRIST HIMSELF** would become a descendant of **DAVID**!

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c. HIS KINGDOM was to be ETERNAL.

(Vs 33)

John 18:36—“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”

JESUS' KINGDOM was to be **SPIRITUAL**, by which it would also be **ETERNAL!**

B. JOSEPH was also told to name the CHILD JESUS, because HE would save HIS people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

So, BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE TOLD THAT MARY WOULD BEAR THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD. . .

V. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE UNBELIEVABLE!

A. MARY Was First Confronted With The Unbelievable!

1. MARY Was Expected To Believe The Miraculous!

(Luke 1:34-35)

We see that she was puzzled but she was not doubting or distrusting the message.

She simply asked for more information. She was single and had never known a man sexually. How could she possibly bear a child without knowing a man?

Note exactly what is said about her conception.

a. "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee."

(Vs 35a)

This was going to transpire without coming into contact with man.

GOD'S SPIRIT simply speaks and it is done, whatever is to be done.

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b. "The power of the Highest [GOD] shall overshadow thee." (Vs 35b)

GOD HIMSELF was going to look after the whole matter.

The **CHILD'S** conception and growth during pregnancy and **HIS** birth and life were under the shadow and wing of **ALMIGHTY GOD!**

c. The CHILD born of MARY would be holy, "THE SON OF GOD." (Vs 35c)

Who is this **"SON OF GOD"**?

1. **HE** is **"THE HOLY ONE"** born by the **POWER** and the **WORD** and the **WILL OF GOD** through the **VIRGIN MARY.**

2. But **HE** is also the great **"I AM,"** the Alpha and Omega from eternity past.

MARY was expected to **BELIEVE** that which seemed unbelievable.

Psalm 37:5—"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Proverbs 3:5—"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

MARY Was Expected To Believe The Miraculous

2. MARY Was Encouraged To Believe That "With God Nothing Is Impossible." (Vs 36-37)

GOD encouraged **MARY** with two facts.

a. The news that her cousin Elizabeth, who was beyond child-bearing age, had conceived a son in her old age and was now six months pregnant. (Vs 36)

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b. With GOD nothing shall be impossible!

(Vs 37)

To say that all things are possible with men is far from the truth, but not with **GOD!**

When **MARY** heard and meditated upon the simple statement, "*With GOD nothing shall be impossible,*" she was bound to be encouraged by the simple truth of it.

GOD expects us to **BELIEVE HIM** and **HIS POWER**, regardless of circumstances and our feelings of insignificance.

B. JOSEPH Was Then Confronted With The Unbelievable— That Which Was In MARY'S Womb Was Conceived Of THE HOLY GHOST. (Matthew 1:20)

VI. BOTH MARY AND JOSEPH WERE SUBMISSIVE TO GOD'S WILL FOR THEIR LIVES!

A. MARY Was SUBMISSIVE To GOD'S WILL For Her Life! (Luke 1:38)

1. Her response was immediate and brief, only one short sentence, yet it was striking and meaningful.

- a. The word "handmaid" means "slave-girl."** **MARY** was saying that she was a bond-slave, willing to sell herself out completely to **GOD**. She was saying that she would **GIVE HERSELF COMPLETELY TO GOD**.

- b. GOD'S WORD was HER WILL!** She **SURRENDERED** totally to **OBEY GOD**. She gave herself to **SERVE** as **GOD WILLED**, being **COMPLETELY OBEDIENT** and **FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE** entirely! She would act "*according to Thy Word.*"

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2. Her response showed the enormous depth of her TRUST and DEDICATION to GOD!

- a. MARY was going to live in society with the stigma of having been pregnant out of wedlock.**

Who of her day would ever believe **MARY'S** story? Nevertheless she was willing be available to **GOD** regardless of the price.

- b. Then there was JOSEPH'S discovery of her pregnancy to deal with. She had to TRUST GOD to take care of that, which GOD did.**

- c. There was also the threat of being condemned to death because of adultery.**

She had to face the possibility of being stoned because she would appear to be immoral.

But she **SURRENDERED TOTALLY** and **COMPLETELY** to the **WILL OF GOD** for her life.

B. JOSEPH Was SUBMISSIVE to GOD'S WILL For His Life! (Matthew 1:24-25)

What was required on **JOSEPH'S** part was a **WILLINGNESS TO FORGET HIMSELF COMPLETELY** and **TRUST THE LORD!**

Conclusion

These are two wonderful examples of **SUBMISSION** and **SURRENDER** to **THE WILL OF GOD** that we see in **MARY** and **JOSEPH!**

Listen, **SURRENDER TO GOD** is **AN ABSOLUTE ESSENTIAL BOTH FOR SALVATION and SERVICE**. Is your life such that **GOD COULD** and **WOULD** use you? Are you **SAVED?**

Are you **ABSOLUTELY SURRENDERED** to **HIS WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?**

Are you **SUBMISSIVE TO HIS WILL?**