

“I am the Lord’s Servant”

Luke 1:26-45

Curt Deming

Melbourne Community Church

December 13, 2015

Luke 1:38

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Can you pray Mary's prayer?

- ❖ Humble yourself.
- ❖ Give up control.
- ❖ Work through your doubt.
- ❖ Count the cost.
- ❖ Surrender.

God's ways are not our ways:

- ❖ The importance / value of women is not determined by a sexist culture.
- ❖ A checkered past does not disqualify you from usefulness to God.
- ❖ It was always God's plan to include Gentiles.

Read about Mary:

- ❖ Matthew 1-2; 13:55
- ❖ Mark 6:3
- ❖ Luke 1-2
- ❖ John 2:1-12; 6:42; 19:25-27
- ❖ Acts 1:14

The Gospel of Luke:

- ❖ Synoptic (like Matthew and Mark), but also distinct
- ❖ 1/3 about women
- ❖ Major theme: liberation of the poor and oppressed

Luke 1-2: Two babies

- ❖ Announced by angels
- ❖ Celebrated with song

Jesus and John the Baptist:

- ❖ Gabriel to Zechariah (1:5-25)
- ❖ Gabriel to Mary (1:26-38)
- ❖ Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-45)
- ❖ Mary's song (1:46-56)
- ❖ Birth of John the Baptist (1:57-66)
- ❖ Zechariah's song (1:67-80)
- ❖ Birth of Jesus (Luke 2)

Gabriel's greatest hits:

- ❖ Daniel (Daniel 8:15-17)
- ❖ Zechariah (Luke 1:11-20)
- ❖ Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Luke 1:26-27

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.

Luke 1:27-28

The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Catholic traditions:

- ❖ Perpetual virginity
- ❖ Immaculate conception of Mary

Brothers and sisters of Jesus:

- ❖ Matthew 12:46-50; 13:55-56
- ❖ Mark 3:31-35; 6:3
- ❖ Luke 8:19-21
- ❖ John 2:12
- ❖ Acts 1:14

Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Unlikely hero:

- ❖ Young
- ❖ Poor
- ❖ Female

Jesus honored women:

- ❖ Luke 7:12-17
- ❖ Luke 8:1-3
- ❖ Luke 10:38-42
- ❖ Luke 11:27-28
- ❖ Luke 13:10-17

Luke 1:29-31

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”

Luke 1:32-33

“He 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

II Samuel 7:11, 17

[Nathan to David]: “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you. . . Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Luke 1:34

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:35

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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.”

Gabriel's prophecy about Mary:

- ❖ You are highly favored.
- ❖ The Lord is with you.
- ❖ You have found favor with God.
- ❖ You will conceive and give birth to a son.
- ❖ You will call him Jesus.

Gabriel's prophecy about Jesus:

- ❖ He will be great.
- ❖ He will be called the Son of the Most High.
- ❖ He will sit on David's throne.
- ❖ He will reign over Israel forever.
- ❖ His kingdom will never end.
- ❖ He will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:36-37

“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Luke 1:38

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

“You’re having a baby.”

- ❖ Sarah laughed (Genesis 18)
- ❖ Zechariah doubted (Luke 1)
- ❖ Mary submitted (Luke 1)

Can you pray Mary's prayer?

- ❖ Humble yourself.
- ❖ Give up control.
- ❖ Work through your doubt.
- ❖ Count the cost.
- ❖ Surrender.

Luke 1:39-41

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:42-43

In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Luke 1:44-45

“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Elizabeth's prophecy:

- ❖ Mary is blessed.
- ❖ Her baby is blessed.
- ❖ Mary's baby is "my Lord."
- ❖ All who believe the Lord's promises are blessed.

Can you pray Mary's prayer?

- ❖ Humble yourself.
- ❖ Give up control.
- ❖ Work through your doubt.
- ❖ Count the cost.
- ❖ Surrender.

Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper