

## Christmas Part 2: Mary, A Lesson on Faith

### Luke 1:26-38



*Luke 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of*

*David, and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end to His kingdom." 34 But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 "And behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel Departed from her.*

**1) An Uncompromising Circumstance** When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, it was at a time in her life that she was betrothed to Joseph. According to the Law, betrothal was seen as equal to marriage. Though she and Joseph did not live together, and the

marriage ceremony had yet to take place, if any defilement of Mary were to be discovered, she would be exposed to harsh punishment; even death.

**2) An Astonishing Encounter** Gabriels appearance and greeting before Mary was so astonishing, she did not know what was going on, who this man was, or where he came from. So Gabriel brings comfort and reassurance to her before he reveals the purpose of his visit. Mary is then given a message that God has been holding just for her, since before the beginning of time, that she would bear a son named Jesus, the Son of God.

**3) An Innocent Reply Mary asks a question.** This question is similar to the question Zechariah asked earlier of Gabriel concerning the birth of his son, John the Baptist. However, there is a big difference between Mary's question and Zechariah's question. Zechariah had a skeptical faith that led to unbelief. While Mary had an innocent faith that lead to understanding. Zechariah knew better than to doubt God, and doubted Him anyway. While Mary did not understand, but trusted the One who is able. The lesson is that we can allow reason to override our faith. But God operates outside of human reason, and He desires we trust that He is able to do the impossible in our lives.

It is in Mary that we find a teenage girl, from the small rural town of Nazareth, who is betrothed and about to be found pregnant with no sensible explanation. Yet, because of God's word alone, all her fears and anxieties are cast aside because she trusts in the One who is able. In the end, Mary reveals to Gabriel that she understood rightly that the Lord is in charge, that we are His servants, and that whatever His will, it is our place in life to trust and obey Him. Mary's example is an enduring lesson about faith for believers in every generation.