

The Journey: A Season of Reflections

Based on An Advent Study by Adam Hamilton

Lesson #1: Mary of Nazareth

Key Story:

Mary is God's chosen servant
(Luke 1:26-38)

READ: (Luke 1:26-38)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and 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?"

³⁵ The 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 ^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even 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. ³⁷ For 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.

~~ Watch Video ~~

Mary of Nazareth

Reflection Questions:

1. What do we learn through this story about the character of God?
2. What questions would you ask an angel if one appeared to you?
3. Was Mary's response to the angel an indication of resignation or one of enthusiastic acceptance? Explain.
4. What if Mary had said no? Can human beings stifle God's plans and intentions?
5. What can we learn from Mary's complete willingness to serve as God called her to serve – even in the face of stern retribution from her community?

This Week:

I will strive to be more like Mary; to fully commit my life to what God is leading me to do.