

## What Mary Knew

There's nothing like looking into the face of your newborn baby for the first time. You're filled with love, and with awe at the miracle of life. You wonder what this tiny little person will turn out to be and do when grown. What will s/he achieve, contribute, and experience? Will your child have long life and produce children of his/her own? We have no way of knowing.

I was thinking about this because of the beautiful Christmas song *Mary Did You Know?* (Mark Lowry / Buddy Greene). Are you familiar with it? In haunting melody, it asks the mother of Jesus the rhetorical questions, *"Did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water... would save our sons and daughters... is Lord of all creation... will one day rule the nations? The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again... This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM!"*

*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 to him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High... his kingdom will never end."* (Luke 1:30-33)

So yes, because of the angel's foretelling, Mary *did* know that her baby boy was incredibly special: the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world. Although I wonder if she fully comprehended what that would entail – Jesus sacrificing his own life some 30 years later, in payment for the sins of all. Remember, there would have been no Christmas if Jesus hadn't been willing to face the cross. That is why He came (John 12:27).

This line of the song touches me most: *"When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God."* Knowing what she knew, imagine Mary gazing into the face of her newborn, kissing him as any mother would, totally in awe that God chose to come to earth in this form and for this reason, that he chose to reveal himself to her in such a personal way. God desires to reveal himself to each of us personally through his son, who is *the exact representation of his being, the radiance of God's glory* (Hebrews 1:3). Take time this Christmas to get to know Jesus better. Look long and deep, with wonder and adoration, into his blessed face.

*For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* (2 Corinthians 4:6)

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