

## Helping Others See God - Witness His Majesty

Luke 1:26-55

12-5-21

### I. Surrender to God and His Plans

#### Eve

Disgraced by plunging the world into sin.  
(1 Timothy 2:15)

#### Ruth

Disgraced Moabite widow.  
(Deuteronomy 23:3-6)

#### Tamar

Disgraced by having sex with her father-in-law.  
(Genesis 38:24-26)

#### Uriah's Wife

Disgraced affair with King David.  
(2 Samuel 11:2-5)

#### Rahab

Disgraced prostitute.  
(Joshua 2:1)

#### Mary

Disgraced with a scandalous birth.  
(Matthew 1:6)

*Luke 1:26-28 – “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*

*Luke 1:29-30 – “But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.’”*

#### Mary's fears:

- \* Fear of criticism – “What will everyone think?”
- \* Fear of I can't do it – “How can I accomplish this?”
- \* Fear of change – “How will this affect my life?”
- \* Fear of God's calling – “What will God ask of me?”

### II. Pay the Cost

*Luke 1:34 – “And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’”*

*Luke 1:38 – “And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”*

### III. Receive God's Gifts

#### 1. His promises

*Luke 1:37 – “For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

#### 2. His Spirit

*Luke 1:35 – “And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.’”*

#### 3. His people

*Luke 1:41-42 – “...Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’”*

### Going Deeper This Week

1. Read Luke 1:26-55. What does the angel want Mary to know about how God sees her? Why is that so important in life and troubled times?
2. Mary will soon be disgraced because of the Lord's decision to give her a child. How would you describe disgrace?
3. The Angel also tells Mary not to fear even though she will be disgraced, and her life thrown into confusion. Is this possible, to not be afraid during these times? What are your fears this Christmas? What does it mean to you that the Lord says to you, “Do not be afraid?”
4. Read Mary's poem/song of praise in Luke 1:46-55. What attributes of God shine especially bright for you this Christmas?
5. When it comes to the promises of God, do you have one promise you are meditating on this Christmas season?
6. Mary is a model of humble submission. She recognizes she is a servant/slave of the Lord, and she humbly receives God's sovereign and heaven-sent plan for her. What can you learn from Mary during this season?
7. How does this story encourage us to be patient with family members and friends when they are skeptical and have questions? Who are the people in your life who have questions or need to know the Lord that you can share your testimony with this Christmas?
8. The ultimate focus of this story is on Jesus and worship of Him. What are the hindrances for you in enjoying pure worship during this Christmas season? Praise Him in your prayers and ask for Him to use you this Christmas season to bless others. Remember, one of God's best promises is, “nothing will be impossible with God.”