



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



“FAITH OR Fear?”

TOM LUNDEEN, SENIOR PASTOR

MESSAGE NOTES

Most of us have heard of the wise men/magi and their connection to the Christmas story; but we may not be quite as aware of ____ women who all have a very _____ part of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Note [Galatians 4:4a](#)

...their experiences, while _____ years old, are incredibly relevant to what we’ve been experiencing during this challenging year...

Many of us are not always very sure how to understand or _____ with Mary the mother of Jesus.

She is...a dominant character in the Christmas story, and to ignore the powerful lessons her life teaches is to miss much of the _____ meaning of Christmas.

1. Mary Illustrates the Power of God’s _____

Despite some _____ theories developed in certain theological traditions about Mary, what the Bible tells us...about Mary is very _____

Why would _____ select this mostly unknown young lady to become the mother of Jesus?

There’s only one reason...God’s _____ (note [Luke 1:26-29](#)).

As good a person as Mary was, she wasn’t _____ (she was a human being and struggled with sin like everybody else), and both her sense of humility and honesty caused her to recognize she didn’t deserve an angelic greeting that described her in such _____ terms.

Mary was not *highly favored* because of her _____... (note [Luke 1:30](#) and [Romans 5:8b](#)).

Since *grace and truth* (note [John 1:17](#)) were going to _____ our world through Jesus, it was only right that Jesus’ mother experience what God’s grace was all about at the outset.

2. Mary Demonstrated _____ Servanthood

Note [Luke 1:31-37](#)

Her submissive heart to the Lord and His calling upon her life speaks volumes to you and me who sometimes _____ at serving the Lord in far less demanding ways.

Mary's commitment to serving the Lord wasn't motivated because she was seeking _____. It could have even cost her _____. So we need to understand what _____ *heroism* (Morris) is embodied in Mary's response (note [Luke 1:38](#)).

Literally Mary said, *I am the Lord's* _____.

3. Mary Portrays a _____ Heart

[Luke 1:46-55](#) is considered an early Christian hymn (*The* _____).

Note [1 Samuel 2:1-10](#)

Mary here _____ with expressions of praise and worship ([Luke 1:46-55](#)).

These verses give us a glimpse into Mary's heart, and what we see is a _____ worshipper of Almighty God.

Mary teaches us what is the most important thing a human being can ever _____... (Note [Romans 12:1](#))

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- We need the _____ lessons that Mary's life reveals perhaps even more for Christmas 2020 than ever before.
- We need an _____ of God's grace in our hearts and lives...
- Let's devote ourselves to a quiet and heroic _____ for servanthood...
- Mary was blessed because she chose to believe God's Word instead of her _____
- To be a worshipper, first you need to become a follower of Jesus.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: In the spirit of our series title, *Holiday Lights...* are you a colored or white, big bulb or small, steady or blinking person?

1. When you hear the name Mary in the context of Christmas, what comes to your mind? (Don't overthink it, go with your first impressions.)
2. Read [Luke 1:26-29](#). What was Mary's response to Gabriel's greeting, and how have you responded similarly when God has met you? (Even if not via an angel!)
3. Read [Luke 1:30](#). How do Mary's qualifications to be the mother of Jesus resemble yours to do whatever He has in mind for you?
4. Pastor Tom has highlighted the risks Mary took upon herself in this role, yet [Luke 1:38](#) says: "Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.'" To what is God calling you to respond likewise? Are you willing to proclaim about yourself "I am the Lord's slave."?
5. [Luke 1:46-55](#) records Mary's worship response to Gabriel's visit and news. How will you prepare your heart for the moment when God calls you to take your next step so you can respond not in fear but with worship?

Day One: [Matthew 16](#)

Day Two: [Matthew 17](#)

Day Three: [Matthew 18](#)

Day Four: [Matthew 19](#)

Day Five: [Matthew 20](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE



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MESSAGE NOTES

Most of us have heard of the wise men/magi and their connection to the Christmas story; but we may not be quite as aware of 3 women who all have a very unique part of the story of the birth of Jesus.

Note [Galatians 4:4a](#)

...their experiences, while 2,000 years old, are incredibly relevant to what we've been experiencing during this challenging year...

Many of us are not always very sure how to understand or deal with Mary the mother of Jesus.

She is...a dominant character in the Christmas story, and to ignore the powerful lessons her life teaches is to miss much of the eternal meaning of Christmas.

1. Mary Illustrates the Power of God's Grace

Despite some creative theories developed in certain theological traditions about Mary, what the Bible tells us...about Mary is very limited.

Why would God the Father select this mostly unknown young lady to become the mother of Jesus?

There's only one reason...God's grace (note [Luke 1:26-29](#)).

As good a person as Mary was, she wasn't perfect (she was a human being and struggled with sin like everybody else), and both her sense of humility and honesty caused her to recognize she didn't deserve an angelic greeting that described her in such lofty terms.

Mary was not *highly favored* because of her performance... (note [Luke 1:30](#) and [Romans 5:8b](#)).

Since *grace and truth* (note [John 1:17](#)) were going to invade our world through Jesus, it was only right that Jesus' mother experience what God's grace was all about at the outset.

2. Mary Demonstrated Heroic Servanthood

Note Luke 1:31-37

Her submissive heart to the Lord and His calling upon her life speaks volumes to you and me who sometimes balk at serving the Lord in far less demanding ways.

Mary's commitment to serving the Lord wasn't motivated because she was seeking glory...it could have even cost her life...so we need to understand what quiet heroism (Morris) is embodied in Mary's response (note Luke 1:38).

Literally Mary said, *I am the Lord's slave.*

3. Mary Portrays a Worshipful Heart

Luke 1:46-55 is considered an early Christian hymn (*The Magnificat*).

Note 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Mary here overflows with expressions of praise and worship (Luke 1:46-55).

These verses give us a glimpse into Mary's heart, and what we see is a true worshipper of Almighty God.

Mary teaches us what is the most important thing a human being can ever be and do... (Note Romans 12:1)

God wants our holidays to be filled with His light.

- We need the powerful lessons that Mary's life reveals perhaps even more for Christmas 2020 than ever before.
- We need an invasion of God's grace in our hearts and lives...
- Let's devote ourselves to a quiet and heroic passion for servanthood...
- Mary was blessed because she chose to believe God's Word instead of her fears.
- To be a worshipper, first you need to become a follower of Jesus.

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