

## Topic: Mary

### Reading Outline

- Read Luke 1 and 2, Matthew 1, 2, and 12:46, John 2:1-11 and 19:25, Acts 1:14
- Focus on the person of Mary, as well as the “big picture” themes.
- Have fun and see how learning more about Mary can edify and teach us women regarding the unity of the faith.

### Scripture References

- Matthew 1, 2 and 12:46, Luke 1 and 2, John 2:1-11 and 19:25, Acts 1:14

### Background

- Mary was a humble village woman who lived in the small town of Nazareth, “... a place so insignificant as to lead Nathanael to say ‘Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?’ “(Joh 1:46).
- Mary is from the tribe of Judah and the line of David.
- Mary is the wife of Joseph, the son of Heli (Luk 3:23).
- As a virgin, Mary became with child by the Holy Spirit and bore Jesus Christ, becoming the Mother of our Lord and Savior.
- It is unusual for women to be named in genealogies. In Matthew 16 Mary bore the stigma of pregnancy outside of wedlock. As the other women listed in this genealogy, Mary is an example of the workings of divine grace (MacArthur Study Bible).

### Post Reading Questions

#### Luke

- Author: Luke, a Gentile physician and missionary companion of Paul.
- Audience: Addressed to Theophilus, but intended for all believers.
- Date: Between the 60s and the 80s AD.
- Theme: Luke presents Jesus as the Messiah and Lord whose life, death, and resurrection make salvation available to all people everywhere.

#### Luke Chapter 1

- **V 1:26-28** - Gabriel recognized her spiritual fitness for such an honor when he said “the Lord is with thee” in Luke 1:28 (Lockyer). The NASB version reads “Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you” (Luk 1:28). “Favored one” also means “full of grace” implicating Mary as a recipient of His Grace. What is the significance of being recipients of grace?

- **V 1:29** - Why might Mary have been “troubled”?
- **V1:30 -33** - What might have been going on in Mary’s mind as she received this news?
- **V1:34** – How is Mary asking “How can this be?” different from Zacharias in verse 18?
- **V1:35-37** - What is the significance of Gabriel mentioning Mary’s relative, Elizabeth, conceiving a son in her old age?
- **V1:38** - How is Mary’s humility revealed? What societal challenges must Mary endure in the midst of this blessing (Cp Deu 22:13-21; Cp Joh 8:3-5)? What can we learn by her example?
- **V1:39-40** - Why might Mary have been in a “hurry”? How does God comfort and encourage us with other members of His Body?
- **V1:41**- What is the significance of Elizabeth’s baby leaping in her womb? How about her being filled by the Holy Spirit?
- **V1:42-44** - What can be said about the baby’s response to Mary?
- **V1:45** - Elizabeth describes Mary as being blessed because she believed the Lord. What does this reveal about the importance of faith? Where are the greatest blessings in a believer’s life?
- **V1:46** - What is significant about Mary addressing God as her Savior?
- **V1:48-49** - What can be said about Mary’s humility? What is the relationship between humility and blessing (2Co 8:9)?
- **V1:50** - Being from the Tribe of Judah and the Line of David, who are some of the examples of God’s mercy in Mary’s life? What is meant by, “those who fear Him”? How does God use others to edify our faith? What can be said about the breadth and depth of God’s mercy (Cp Psa 51; 103:17-19)?
- **V1:51-52** – Mary states what God has done to those who were “proud in the thoughts of their heart”. How does pride impact one’s soul? How does God deal with our pride (Lev 26:19, Dan 5:20, 2Ch 26:16, Psa 10:4, Pro 11:2; 13:10; 16:18; 29:23, Isa 2:11)?
- **V1:53** – What is significant about being *hungry* and *empty handed* (Cp Psa 107:9)?
- **V1:54** – Mary speaks of servanthood and God’s mercy. What blessings come in serving the Perfect Master? Why do so many today choose against His mercy, and instead serve a different master, remaining in bondage? How do most people today view the idea of serving others? What does God say about this (Mar 10:42-25)?
- **V1:46-55** -How is Mary’s Magnificat similar to Hannah’s prayer (Cp 1Sa 1:11; 2:1-10)?

## Luke Chapter 2

- **V2:1-5** – What must this trip, Nazareth to Bethlehem, have been like for Mary so close to the birth of her first born child? What distance did she and Joseph have to travel? Why do they go to Bethlehem (Mic 5:2)?
- **V2:6** – What is significant about baby Jesus being her first born?
- **V2:9-12** – Compare the Angel of The Lord appearing here to His appearing in Luke 1:28-37. What do you notice?
- **V2:11** – Why do you think The Angel of The Lord uses the particular sequence of titles for The Lord Jesus Christ: “Savior,” “Messiah,” then “The Lord”? Reflect on what has been coming from the pulpit regarding The Gospel. Why do so many American Christians seem to forget about a daily need for repentance? Why do some live a life that may address a Savior but not a Lord?
- **V2:16** – What is interesting about shepherds being the first to visit Mary, Joseph, and Jesus? What do we know about the role of a shepherd from The Word of God (Luk 2:8, Mat 9:36, Cp Psa 23)?
- **V2:19** – What are the things Mary “treasures” (Cp Mat 6:19-24)?
- **V2:20** – What can be said about the shepherds’ trust in The Lord prior to seeing Him? What is significant about their praising of both what they heard and saw (Joh 20:29)?
- **V2:22-24** – How is Mary’s humility and obedience revealed in these verses (Cp Exo 13:2,12, Lev 12:8)? What are some examples of fruits of obedience and humility in a believer’s life?
- **V2:25-33**- What is behind Mary and Joseph’s “marveling?” Where does their focus continue to be? How does God reveal His plan to us as we are sanctified daily (Isa 26:3, Heb 12:2)?
- **V2:36-38** – What is revealed about the prophet, Anna? Why might God have chosen her as the one to address Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in the temple?
- **V2:48** - Why might Mary and Joseph have been “astonished?” What do Mary’s words reveal about what she may have been feeling in the given moment?
- **V2:51** – This is the second time in Luke where we read of Mary treasuring “...all these things in her heart.” What treasures are being referenced (Cp Luk 2:19)?

### **Matthew 12:46-49**

- In these verses, we read that Mary seeks to speak with Jesus. How is her seeking in this verse different from her “looking” in Luke 2:48-49?
- How does Mary fit both the crowd’s and Jesus’s descriptions of “mother”?
- What is the significance of spiritual relationships compared to earthly relationships (Joh 17: 20-25, Rom 12:4-5, 1Co 1:10, 1Co 12:12-31, Eph 1:20-23, Eph 4:16, vs. Mat 10:34-39)? Why do we sometimes prioritize earthly relationships?
- How are we, as women, called to be “spiritual mothers”? How do you maintain spiritual objectivity in spite of earthly and/or blood ties?

### **John**

- **V2:3-5** – How is Mary adjusted by Jesus? How often do we need similar adjustments?
- **V19:25-27** – What is the significance of Jesus telling Mary, “Woman, here is your son” and, “Here is your mother,” to the disciple? How is this an example of God’s design for the Body of Christ? (Joh 15:12-13, Gal 6:2, Phi 2:4)

### **Acts 1:14**

- In this verse, Paul points out that Mary is with the apostles as they join together constantly for prayer. Based on what we know about Mary, how must her participation in prayer with the apostles have encouraged them in their faith? How is this also an act of obedience? (1Ch 16:11, Psa 145:18, Rom 12:12, 1Th 5:16-18)