

Blessed



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MARY'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE IMPOSSIBLE PLAN OF GOD

THE GODLY, YOUNG MOTHER OF OUR LORD PROVIDES US WITH A BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR BELIEVING THAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO.

I. "Hello, Mary"—The Lord sent his greetings to Mary by the angel Gabriel, 1:26-28.

- (Luke 1:26–28 LSB) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

A. God sent his angel Gabriel to greet and bless a young woman named Mary.

B. Gabriel affirmed the grace and presence of the Lord in Mary's life to prepare her for the forthcoming announcement.

The word for favor here comes from our familiar word for grace—*χάρις* ... *χαριτώ* [khar·ee·to·o] ... to peruse with grace, compass with favor; to honor with blessings. It means to be favored; to be grace-bestowed; to be or become the recipient of God's freely bestowed, beneficent goodwill.

II. Mary began working through her perplexity and pondered what this meant, 1:29-33.

- (Luke 1:29–33 LSB) But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found

favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom."

A. Even with the affirmation of the angel Mary was still perplexed at the greeting.

Gabriel had begun by revealing God's plans for her to bear the Son of the Most High. But even with the affirmation of God's grace and presence in her life, Mary was still confused and disturbed by the greeting.

B. Mary was a thinker: So Mary was pondering the set of circumstances before her.

She began an internal dialogue—as to what the angel could mean. NLT is excellent here.

- (Luke 1:29 NLT) Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

The word for "think" [*pondering-LSB*] is *διαλογίζομαι* — meaning dialogue, to reason, revolve in one's mind, deliberate. Mary was debating internally, engaging in deep thought. She was carrying on a dialogue within herself. We would say that she was talking to herself as she tried to sort this out.

C. Gabriel then exhorted her not to be afraid, referred her to her standing of grace with God and revealed God's will for her life.

AND WHAT WAS GOD'S WILL FOR MARY'S LIFE? Only that Mary would conceive and give birth to the Son of the Most High according to the preordained, eternal plan of God which was formed in the infinite mind of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in eternity past.

III. Mary questioned how this could be prompting Gabriel's simple explanation—God will do the impossible, 1:34-37.

- (Luke 1:34–37 LSB) But Mary said to the angel, **"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"** 35 The angel answered and said to her, **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.** 36 "And behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 **"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

A. Mary continued thinking her way through the paradox—that a virgin could conceive a baby.

B. Mary's conclusion—she had no explanation for these things in the natural realm.

Mary had come to realize that the explanation was beyond her capability to know.

C. Mary took the logical next step and asked—"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

D. Mary was now ready for the supernatural explanation that Gabriel would reveal to her—that God would do the impossible and she would bear the holy Child—the Son of God.

IV. Mary had now come full circle and accepted the impossible nature of the plans of God for her life, 1:38.

- (Luke 1:38 LSB) And Mary said, "Behold, the slave of the Lord; **may it be done to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

A. Mary had submitted fully as a slave of the Lord to God's will for her life.

B. Mary had come to the logical end as to the possibilities in the natural realm.

C. Mary now excitedly embraced the supernatural direction of the Lord according to his word.

V. Mary left in a hurry to visit Elizabeth and was given further affirmation by the blessing of the Holy Spirit through Elizabeth, 1:39-45.

- (Luke 1:39–45 LSB) Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, **"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** 43 "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 **"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."**

A. Mary arose and went in a hurry to the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth—a fellow recipient of the miracle of God in the conception of their sons.

- (Luke 1:36 LSB) And behold, **your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age;** and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.

B. Lesson: As with Mary, when we fully submit to the will of the Lord, we will be filled with the Spirit and excited to do the will of the Lord.

C. More affirmation comes as Elizabeth proclaims two blessings on Mary:

- i. **The blessing** for being the mother of the Lord.
- ii. **The blessing** for believing that the Lord would fulfill his word in her life.