

The Nativity
Part 1 - Mary
Luke 1:26-45

6 *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
7 *Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.* Isaiah 9:6-7

13 *Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your **hope** on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.* 1 Peter 1:13

Mary was avored by God...

²⁶ *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."* Luke 1:26-28

highly favored = "much grace."

Grace = "unmerited favor".

Mary was favored by God... and you are too!

8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9

God will use ordinary people in extraordinary ways to accomplish His will!

"Being favored" by God doesn't mean that everything about your life will be "favorable."

*11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.** 14 I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. Jeremiah 29:11-14*

Mary initially didn't think she had much to offer God....

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. Luke 1:29

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; Luke 1:30a

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. Luke 1:30

The favor of God is worth any discomfort that comes with it.

**8 ... And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8**

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:31-33

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.” Luke 1:34-37

Mary obeyed God with radical abandon.

38 “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Luke 1:38

How can God use you?

- Make yourself available to His leadership in your life!

- Get ready to be used by God.
- Respond enthusiastically to His will for you!

Are you radically abandoned to the Lord's leadership in your life?

The Lord always gives us the help and support we need to carry out His will!

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Luke 1:41-45

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, Luke 1:76