

# Mary: When God Does the Impossible

## Luke 1:26-38

When God does the impossible...

### 1. It All Begins with Grace

1:28 “And the angel came to her and said, ‘Rejoice, *favored woman!* The Lord is with you.’”

We see this word for *favored* in one other verse, Ephesians 1:6, which says that we are...

Ephesians 1:5-6 “...adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He *favored us* with in the Beloved.”

- Literally, “Graced us” or “begraced us” – perhaps, “He “gracified us.” So, in Luke 1, the word means, “Graced woman.”
- And how is it we define *grace*? As “unmerited” or “undeserved favor.” God shows us great favor, as if we were deserving – but we aren’t deserving. It’s grace.

### Grace is a Mind-Blowing Experience

1:29, Amplified: “She was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.”

- It was bigger news than her previous life experiences prepared her for.
  - She suddenly felt that she was in over her head! She’s trying to wrap her mind around it all.
- She wasn’t clear on what it would involve.
  - She was “confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.”

## 2. It's All About Jesus

### It's About His Name

1:31 "Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name JESUS."

Jesus = Joshua = Yehoshua or "Jehovah Delivers"

### It's About His Identity

1:32 "*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...*"

### It's About His Kingdom

1:32-33 "...and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Fulfilled Prophecy: 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:12-13 "I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

## 3. It All Depends on God

### It Begins with God

1:34-35 "Mary asked the angel, 'How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?'"

The angel replied to her: "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.*"

The *eternal Son of God* would become the *incarnate Son of God*.

### It Requires God's Encouragement

It's such a big thing... it's so audacious... you will need the encouragement of others.

1:36 "And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren."

Consider = behold, take notice

## It Relies on God's Promises

1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Genesis 18:13-14 "But the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Can I really have a baby when I'm old?' Is anything impossible for the Lord? At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son."

## 4. It Calls for a Response

### Responding in Surrender

1:38 "'I am the Lord's slave,' said Mary. 'May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel left her.

### Choosing The Right Fellowship

1:39-40 "In those days Mary *set out and hurried* to a town in the hill country of Judah where she entered Zechariah's house and *greeted Elizabeth.*"

### A Response of Faith

#### Believing God

1:45 "She who has believed is blessed because what was spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled!"

### Responding with an In-Tune Spirit

1:46-47 "And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has *rejoiced in God my Savior*'"

An spirit in tune with God will be a praising spirit.

### Reporting for Duty

1:56 "And Mary stayed with her about three months; *then she returned to her home.*"