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Mary Did You Know? Luke 1:26-56
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Introduction – I’m sure you are very familiar with the popular Christmas song “Mary, Did You Know?” It’s a unique way to tell the Christmas story from Mary’s point of view. The greatest strength about the song is that it does declare so many wonderful, biblical truths about Christ. It declares throughout who Christ truly is – God, Lord of all creation, the perfect Lamb, the Great I Am. It also declares the mighty deeds that Christ will perform – giving sight to the blind, calming a storm, walk on water, rule the nations. And it even declares the most glorious truth of all – the gospel – the good news that this baby boy would save our sons and daughters and even furthermore that this child is Mary’s own Savior.

So as believers you can’t help but love and enjoy when you hear all the massive propositional truths that this song declares about the Person and Work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the fact that these things were not just coincidental or magic or legend, these things were true of Christ even as He was a little baby in His mother’s lap.

But the basis of the song is the question of how much of this wondrous amazing truth about Jesus did Mary know at the time of His birth? Did she learn about these things as Christ grew up and began to teach and preach and perform miracles and declare that He was indeed the Son of God and that He must die for God’s people? Did she believe after the resurrection as did His brothers? What did Mary really know about this precious little baby boy when she brought him forth in that manger?

As it turns out, that’s actually not a question that the Bible leaves unanswered. In fact, when we turn to Luke 1, we discover exactly what Mary knew and we discover that she knew much more than we would expect her to know.

- I. A Word of Wonder from an Angel (vv26-38)
 - a. V31 – this is more than a gender reveal and naming party.
 - i. Jesus is the Greek name of the Hebrew name Joshua. They both mean “the Lord saves.”

- ii. The fact that Gabriel, an angel sent from heaven with a special message for Mary, informs her that she is going to conceive a child before her marriage to Joseph is consummated, and that child will be a son, and His name is to be Jesus, lets us know that Mary knows a lot about this child and even her own place in the history of redemption.
 - iii. In fact, Mary as a devoted follower of the Lord would have immediately connected the dots between Gabriel's words and Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 – "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Luke wants his readers to make this connection. Surely Mary does as well.
 - iv. As soon as she heard these words from Gabriel her fear of seeing an angel has now been replaced with remarkable, humble wonder. Not only that the promise given 600 years ago is finally being fulfilled, but that she, she, has been chosen by God to have this unique place in redemptive history. I can imagine her falling to her knees at this instant in total amazement and humility.
- b. Vv32-33 – Gabriel continues to affirm that he is indeed referring to Isaiah's Immanuel.
 - i. Now we heard that same description of Jesus from last week's sermon from Isaiah 9:6-7
 - ii. Mary now knows that the prophecy of Isaiah 7 and 9 are to be fulfilled in the child, the son, that she is to bear.
 - iii. So there are at least 3 things that Mary now knows about Jesus from Gabriel. He is Savior. He is God. He will rule over the nations forever.
 - iv. To say that she's startled at this point would be a vast understatement. Stunned. Humbled. Rejoicing. Amazed.
 - v. And as a little known young girl from Nazareth, not a little confused. Confused not about the truth of what Gabriel is revealing, but at how this can possibly happen.
- c. V34
- d. V35 – The power of God will accomplish the impossible.
- e. Vv36-37 – Gabriel gives an example of how God is working in a similar impossible way.

- f. V38 – Mary’s response of nervous, humble faith.
 - g. At this point, Mary knows her child is the promised, coming Savior – the very Son of God.
- II. A Word of Confirmation from a Friend (vv39-45)
- a. Vv39-43 – Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth declares to Mary that she is carrying Elizabeth’s Lord.
 - i. The song asks, “Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?”
 - 1. The answer to that question is a profoundly astounding “yes.” Imagine the sense of absolute wonder and thrill and amazement and uncertainty of how this would all play out.
 - ii. The song asks, “Mary, did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.”
 - 1. The answer again is a profound “yes.” If He is the Son of God, if He is Isaiah’s Immanuel, if He is the Lord of Elizabeth, then Mary knows He’s her Lord too.
 - 2. Nowhere does the Bible instruct us to worship Mary or pray to Mary, but we are to know and respect and even revere her enormous role in God’s plan of redemption.
 - 3. The Son of God would carry each of us through life, into salvation, and ultimately to glory, but she and she alone would fall into the history of redemption as the only believer who at one time carried the Son of God.
 - 4. And, yes, as she herself, would be numbered among those who believe, she would have had the perplexing and profound sense of carrying her own Savior.
 - 5. Yes, Mary was humble. Yes, Mary was favored. Mary too was a sinner in need of a Savior. She just happened to be, by God’s design, the one to give birth to Him!
 - b. Vv44-45 – Elizabeth confirms through the joy of her own child and the faith that is visibly present in Mary.
 - i. Elizabeth knew exactly who Jesus was through the impression of the Holy Spirit – that by the way is the exact same way we

come to know the truth of who Jesus is – by the work of the Holy Spirit in our own hearts.

- ii. Elizabeth knew exactly who Jesus was through the response of her own child, John, who would play his own unique role in the history of redemption. And BTW – let's not pass it too quickly that John's response as a child in the womb was joy – why that's exactly the same response for us when we encounter our Savior. Salvation is the joy of Christmas.
- iii. And Elizabeth knew that Mary believed all that Gabriel had told her, even if she couldn't comprehend it all, she believed it all – BTW – it's the same for us. We might not be able to get our minds around the fact the Jesus was God's Son in the flesh – 100% God and 100% man – God wrapped in human flesh to deliver humans from our sinful flesh – we might not be able to comprehend how God became man, but we do so embrace and cherish and rejoice that He did become man to be our Savior!

- c. Now, are you sure Pastor that Mary did know all of that about Jesus? Her song of praise in the following verses shout a loud "YES!"

III. A Song of Praise from a Servant (vv46-56)

- a. Vv46-48 – Mary knew she wasn't worthy even though she was chosen – BTW – it's the same for us believers whom the Bible describes as chosen – we know we're not worthy, we know we need a Savior. And we too rejoice that He saves unworthy sinners like us.
- b. V49 – Mary knew God is able to do what she can't fathom and even more that He would do great things for her – there's the faith.
- c. Vv50-55 – Mary knew that God was keeping His covenant promises with His people. She knew that the salvation Jesus brings is not just for her but for generations. She knew He would not only bring salvation but also justice and judgment. She knew. She knew. She knew all that God had promised was coming when her son, God's Son, came.
- d. And she marveled. And she rejoiced. And she sang. And she believed.

Conclusion – The question really is not Mary, did you know? The question really is do we know? Do you know? Did you know that the Baby Boy born on the first Christmas has come to make you new?