

Luke 1:26-38 Active Passivity  
Mother's Day 2017

As I think about Mother's Day, I don't even know where to start. My heart aches as I think that in America we have forgotten much of what is truly important, especially about motherhood. So today I want to look at some of the only commentary we have on the chosen mother for Jesus Christ. We want to look at her, not to worship her as so many do, but to see what her faith looked like in action. I think that as we look at Mary, it will encourage each of us, men and women, to have a real faith. If there is one thing that we need in our world today, it is parents with real faith who are teaching their kids about the gospel both in words and actions.

- Mary Versus Zacharias – two people with quests with two different responses.
  - **Luke 1:11-20** Zacharias' story
    - Both knew fear
    - VS. 18 How shall I know this? – Directly questioning the message from God.
      - He knew He was talking to an angel. **Vs. 11-12** and was afraid...
      - The message was clear. His wife would conceive a child.
      - He would be a child that would be the fulfillment of prophecy... **Mal. 4:5-6**
    - Zacharias doubts the words of God!
      - **Luke 1:18** “And Zacharias said to the angel, How shall I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”
      - This is a direct questioning of the power or ability of God to do what He said!
      - It appears also that He was asking for a sign.
        - He had a clear message.
        - He was talking with an angel.
    - Mary believes, but doesn't understand, no man is mentioned! Who would have understood that a virgin would be with child?
      - **Luke 1:31-34** <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end. <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
      - Easy for us to look back and think we would have done better, but without God telling us, this would have been an incredibly sacrilegious thought.
        - Part god, part human... Lust – Greek and Roman gods
        - Fully God, Fully man – born as a sacrifice out of love for the world to pay for our sin.
          - **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
      - **Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
        - Only as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes like He did to Matthew in **Mat 1:23** and shows us that this prophecy does it even become thinkable.
      - Mary was questioning for the sake of obedience, I believe.
    - Zacharias was punished for his unbelief and Mary was blessed.
      - **Luke 1:20** “And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time.”
      - **Luke 1:35-37** <sup>35</sup> And 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 offspring shall be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a

son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> **For nothing will be impossible with God.**

- Mary's Faith – Actively Passive Obedience.
  - Luke 1:38 “And Mary said, Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.”
    - We rush through this. It is commonplace...
    - No husband, pregnant. No explanation that would be believed.
    - **Completely dependent on God!**
- Actively Passive Obedience!
  - One of our greatest sins is our lack of faith. WE DON'T BELIEVE GOD!!!!
    - We have two sides of this. We rush to worldly means and ways, and we don't hold to the clear teaching of God!
      - Many of the church growth techniques.
        - Can we truly use worldly means to build a spiritual body???
        - Do we spend as much time in prayer and Bible study as in marketing and production?
      - Parenting techniques: Do we even know the commands that God has given us as parents?
        - Do we know the promises and responsibilities?
          - **Ephesians 6:4** “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
          - **Deuteronomy 6:5-7** “<sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
  - **Romans 1:16-18** “<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith. <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,”
    - What is the Power of God? It is God working in our life?! **Vs. 37** For with God, nothing will be impossible.
    - Do we need this power? Yes! Our children, friends, acquaintances are spiritually DEAD.
      - No hope of a physician!
      - It doesn't take a village! It takes a much greater source than even the best human help. It needs a miracle.
    - Yet this is what the power of God is for! ... “for it is the power of God to Salvation...!”
      - This knowledge of the Gospel. The teaching of the word of God!
      - We are willing to spend time teaching other skills and sharing other things, but are we trusting God and obeying Him in sharing the gospel and the word with our family?
        - Do we have a daily devotion to show our heart for God?
        - Do we have a family devotion time to ask others to join us in? Morning and evenings...
    - VS. 17 “The just shall live by faith!”
      - **Romans 10:17** “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
      - We know God's word, but do we live it? The just shall live by faith!
      - Mary could be actively passive. We must resist sin and yield to God!
        - **James 4:7** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

- **Romans 6:12-13** <sup>12</sup> “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” **(1Co 16:13)** “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”
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Are we living a life of FAITH! Obeying God and submitting to His word? This is what makes mothers so special. They are the keeper of the home, choosing to be submissive to their husbands, loving in word and in deed, examples of obedience and purity in the home, and pointing to the Lord. This is the woman worthy of praise.