

THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Luke 1:26-38

Introduction: Today, across our nation, respect and honor is being given to our Mothers. Of all the people who deserve our love and honor and who get it less, it is our Mothers.

We are going to take a look at a mother who lived 2,000 years ago and one whom you are familiar with, the mother of Jesus. Because we don't find Mary exalted in the scriptures and some have made her equal with Jesus and God, most have gone (including us) to the other extreme and have just ignored her and only mention her name at Christmas. Today we are going to look at Mary, the mother of Jesus.

I. MARY WAS PURE

1. As in all generations, some girls fix themselves up and flirt with the guys, but not Mary.
2. Immorality is rampant today and girls the age of Mary are very active sexually and in about half of the teenage marriages of today, the bride is already pregnant.
3. Many of the married couples of today are engaged in sexual activities with other couples and often "switch" partners for the weekend.
4. Mary remained untouched, pure, thus she carries the name today - "Virgin Mary."

II. MARY WAS SUBMISSIVE TO THE WILL OF GOD

1. When the angel appeared to her to tell her about being chosen, she simply answered: *"...behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word..."*
2. She could have offered excuses:
 - I'm unworthy.
 - I've nothing suitable to wear.
 - I'm too poor.
 - I'll need special courses in how to rear a child.
3. She was willing to give up the one she loved, Joseph.
 - He might not believe her story.
 - Even though the thought of losing Joseph made her heart almost break, the Lord came first.
4. Mary was submissive to the will of God.

III. MARY KNEW THE "BIBLE" WELL

1. At different times in the scriptures we find that Mary often quoted the Old Testament.
2. When the angel appeared to her and the name of the Messiah was mentioned, she knew who the angel was talking about.

3. With God on one side of Jesus and His devoted mother on the other, no wonder Jesus had no trouble getting rid of Satan.

IV. MARY WAS A HOME MAKER

1. Mary probably came from a poor, large family.
2. She did the family laundry at the near by well or stream.
3. She helped grind the grain for their meals.
4. She kept her smaller sisters and brothers while their parents worked.
5. Cooking and sewing were normal things to her.
6. After marriage with Joseph, she had to care for at least nine people. (children)
 - She had to cook for nine ever meal.
 - She had to wash clothes and care for nine.
 - She had no automatic anything.
 - She was up before the sun and up long after it had set.
7. Yes, this part of the mother of Jesus is too often and too long forgotten. She was a mother with all duties and responsibilities of a mother.

V. SHE KEPT SECRETS IN HER HEART

1. Right from the start she had to keep secrets.
 - The angel's announcement to her that she had been chosen by God.
 - The angels present at Jesus' birth, the wise men, the shepherds.
 - Jesus being only 12 but mentally equal to the teachers of the temple.
2. She had plenty to brag about - wouldn't you?
 - She couldn't have any jealousy.
 - She wanted Jesus to have as normal childhood as possible.
 - She wanted Him to be unspoiled.
3. Of all the things to brag about, Mary didn't brag or gossip.

VI. MARY HAD TO SUFFER SHAME

1. Even though she had the joy of being chosen to be the mother of the promised Messiah, she was in a difficult position.
 - Her parents would never believe her story.
 - Joseph probably would not accept her explanation.
 - People would never forget, even 30 years later during the ministry of Jesus, people cried out that He was illegitimate, born of fornication.

2. Yes, Mary knew what it was to suffer shame, public disgrace, but she still held her head high, proud.

VII. MARY GAVE UP HER SON (so that you and I might have eternal life)

1. As the gathering storm of anger against Jesus grew, as Jesus was arrested, as the crowd cried "crucify Him, crucify Him," she followed along helplessly.
 - When she saw her own son being whipped and spit upon, mocked and shamed, she wanted to scream out against all of them.
 - As she saw the soldiers drive the nails into her Son's hands and feet, she could feel each blow in her own body.
 - When the soldier thrust his sword/spear into the side of her little boy, Jesus, her heart almost burst.
 - As they tenderly let the cross down and pulled the nails from his hands and feet, she wept, oh, if she could have only done something, even taken His place. Her baby boy was gone.
2. Mary knew that her son Jesus was different from other sons. He was immeasurably wise, miraculously powerful. She knew that God was His father. She knew for what purpose her son Jesus had been born. She knew what He had to do.
3. Yet Mary was still His mother and as she looked at his body, she remembered the times she had held him as a baby, playing with Him, watching Him grow to a young lad, listening to the little boy chatter, watching Him grow to a young man, all the time knowing that someday He would leave her.
4. Yes, even the mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ was a typical mother, no different than our own mothers of today. How many mothers would not have done the same things for their children as did Mary? How many mothers would have felt broken hearted to see her son shamed, whipped and put to death?

CONCLUSION:

1. The years may pass, times may change, society may be different, customs may change, BUT Mothers never change.
 - May God give us more people like Mothers.
 - May we find love like that of Mothers.
 - May we all have the patience of Mothers.
 - May we know the understanding and kindness of Mothers.
 - May we learn the softness and gentleness of a Mother.
2. Let us honor Mary, the mother of Jesus , and all the mothers of our time, not with lip service but with true and sincere love and devotion.
3. If not for your own mother, you would not be here today - you would have never existed.