

ADVENT (Mary the Model Disciple)
Andy Deane · 12/10/2023 · Luke 1:26-56

REMINDER: Ad· vent (noun) — “Arrival” [Latin]

1. The period beginning four Sundays before Christmas.
2. Remembering the first arrival of Christ at the incarnation.
3. Anticipating the second arrival of Christ in the future.

MARY MODELS a disciple’s response to God’s Word.

Luke 1:26-38, 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.” 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 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.” 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.” 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

- Whether God speaks through an angel or through His Word, a believer’s response requires humility like Mary’s!
- HUMILITY (as modeled by Mary) is:
 1. Curious: *How will this be, Mary asked (34)*
 2. Trusting: *...no word from God will ever fail (37)*
 3. Obedient: *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” (38)*

MARY MODELS a disciple’s connection to God’s Son.

- We learn powerful truths about Mary that are true of us too:
 1. She was highly favored [“graced”] (28) = Ephesians 1:6, *...his glorious grace, which he has freely given us...*
 2. The Lord is with her (28) = Matthew 28:20, *...I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
- We have as close a relationship to Christ as Mary did!
 - Matthew 12:47-50, *47 Someone told him, “Your mother & brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you. 48 He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother & sister & mother.”*
 - Jesus lives in us spiritually, as He did in Mary physically.
 - Jesus is brought to the world spiritually through us, as Mary did physically.

MARY MODELS a disciple’s need for God’s people.

Luke 1:39-45, 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. 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!”

- Imagine how lonely Mary felt as she processed God’s Word. Who could understand? Another touched by God!
- It’s crucial for Christ-followers to be in a community with Spirit-filled believers.
- That’s why “GROW WITH OTHERS” is a major part of our Discipleship Pathway. Text NEXT to (951)425-4425.

MARY MODELS a disciple's gratitude for God's work.

Luke 1:46-56, *M46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." 56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*

1. Mary overflows with: a song of praise all about God, not her.
 - God is going to turn things upside-down, or really, right side-up, from the way they are now in the world.
 - Matthew 19:30, *But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*
 - This reversal assures us that the poor, vulnerable, & marginalized—all those who count for nothing in this world—count very much in the Kingdom of God. The future holds great promise for them because God cares.
2. Mary overflows with: a song saturated with Scripture.
 - It has 12 other allusions to the Old Testament. So Mary was a woman who was saturated with God's Word.
 - Matthew 12:34, *...the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*
3. Mary overflows with: a song before the promise is delivered.
 - How do we praise God in advance of receiving a promise?
 - "Remember, the incarnation wasn't the 'start' of Jesus. Before Jesus was with Mary, He was with the Father and the Spirit. Before He was worshiped by the shepherds and magi, He was worshiped by the angels in Heaven. He is eternal. He's always been there. Being outside of time, means that He can see the end from the beginning. And since He's eternal and since we know He's good, wise, kingdom-minded, and playing the long game... so we can trust Him by faith. This is why we can praise him in advance." (Pastor Wes Sabio)

TWO OPTIONS FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

1. Mary was a woman who knew God's Word. Let's make knowing God's Word a 2024 goal for our church too!
 - Choose a 2024 Bible reading plan to go through personally, or in a group.
 - Whether you read the entire New Testament (1 chapter / weekday), or the entire Bible (4 chapters / day).
 - Text BIBLE to (951)425-4425 to view the PDFs for all of our Bible Reading Plans.
 - I will be reading through the entire Bible this year. If you'd like to read along with your pastor, then join me!
2. Mary models a disciple's need for God's people. Let's make community a 2024 goal for our church too!
 - New 2024 Discipleship Groups are launching in January!
 - Discipleship Groups are micro groups of 3-5 (same gender) people that meet weekly for a year to pursue spiritual growth in Christ together through Scripture reading, prayer, accountability, and more.
 - Text DISCIPLESHIP to (951)425-4425 or visit go2cornerstone.com/discipleship to learn more.
 - Join us in the Next Steps Center after each service this Sunday to learn more about joining a group.