

Women of the Bible

Lesson Seven: Mary

Paul told the churches in Galatia that God, in the fullness of time, sent forth His son, “born of a woman” to redeem those under the law (Galatians 4:4-5). This birth of the Son of God to a virgin named Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20-25), in the line of David (Luke 3:23-38) was the glorious manner through which the Messiah came into this world.



Introduction. Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph when she “was found with child” of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18). Joseph considered “putting her away” until he was miraculously told what had happened to Mary (Matthew 1:19-20).

I. Mary & the Birth of Jesus.

- A. The angel Gabriel had come to her and announced Jesus’ birth (Luke 1:26-33).
 1. She is described as “highly favored” and blessed “among women” (Luke 1:28).
 2. She “found favor” with God (Luke 1:30). Mary, most certainly had demonstrated the kind of character that showed her to be a suitable woman to bear and raise the most important Person ever born on earth - Jesus.
 3. Mary is told that her child will be “Son of the Highest” who will reign over the house of Jacob “forever” (Luke 1:31-33).
- B. Mary asks the angel how she will have a child as a virgin (Luke 1:34).
 1. She is told that the Holy Spirit will come upon her (Luke 1:35-37).
 2. Mary believed the Lord’s promise (Luke 1:38). There must have been many hardships that she must have faced, as a betrothed woman, with child. Even so she endured this honorably.
- C. When Mary went to the home of Elizabeth, and saw her relative with child, she offered a beautiful declaration about God’s goodness to her (Luke 1:46-55).
- D. When the time came for her to give birth, Mary went with her husband to Bethlehem and gave birth to Jesus. The child was laid in a manger, because there was no room in the inn (Luke 2:4-7).
 1. When Jesus was presented at the temple, Mary was told prophetically by Simeon of the turmoil and pain to her own soul that would come from the life of Jesus (Luke 2:25-35). These promises must have stayed with Mary and influenced her own faith in God’s word unto her (cf. Luke 2:51-52).

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II. Mary During the Life of Jesus.

- A. When Jesus was young, He stayed behind the caravan in Jerusalem, speaking with the scholars in the temple. Mary confronted Jesus about this (Luke 2:48-50).
 - 1. Mary “kept all these things in her heart” (Luke 2:51-52).
- B. Jesus’ first miracle was motivated by Mary (John 2:1-11). Mary either knew that the time for Jesus to perform a miracle had come, or simply trusted that He would behave Himself honorably to help with the problem.
- C. During Jesus’ ministry, His brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:5) and even thought at one point that He was “out of His mind” (Mark 3:21).
 - 1. Mary is not included in these descriptions of unbelief on the part of His family (cf. Matthew 12:46-50).

III. Mary in the Face of Jesus’ Death & Resurrection.

- A. Among the followers of Jesus that stood at the cross when Jesus died was Mary, his mother (John 19:25). Simeon’s prophecy that a sword would “pierce” the soul of Mary was most surely fulfilled as Mary watched her firstborn Son suffer such pain.
 - 1. Jesus from the cross, tells John (“the disciple whom Jesus loved”) to care for Mary (John 19:25-27).
 - 2. Historical tradition records that John did care for Mary, even taking her into his home years later in the city of Ephesus after the destruction of Jerusalem.
- B. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, Mary was a faithful disciple together with Jesus’ brothers who eventually came to believe in Him (Acts 1:12-14).

Conclusion. Mary was a wonderful servant of God. She was honored over all women in that she was allowed to give birth to Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. This honor brought her both joy and anguish. She saw Jesus being rejected, mocked and ultimately crucified. In spite of it all, she went on to become a faithful disciple of Jesus, worshipping with the other saints in the early church.

