



Sermon Series Notes

“The Blessed Mother” (Luke 1:26-56)

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I. Misconceptions About Mary

A. That She Is A Perpetual Virgin

- “Mary, the Mother of God, remained a virgin not only in the conception of Christ but also in His birth and during the rest of her life.” (Baltimore Catechism)

B. That She Is Co-Redemptrix

- “Because of her consent to accept the office of Mother of the Redeemer, and also because of her merits in intimately sharing the sufferings of her Divine Son for the salvation of mankind, the Blessed Virgin is given the title of Co-Redemptrix of the human race.” (A Catechism of Christian Doctrine, p.65)

C. That *She* Was Born Of An Immaculate Conception

- This doctrine was introduced by Pope Pius IX in 1854 and goes like this, “We declare, pronounce and define that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instance of her Conception was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, by the singular grace and privilege of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, and that this doctrine was revealed by God, and therefore, must be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”
- See Luke 1:46-47.

D. That She Ascended Physically Into Heaven

- Pope Pius XII said, “Now God has willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary should be exempted from this general rule (death). She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body... We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma” that the Immaculate Mother God, the

ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

E. Comments

- None of these teachings are even remotely found in the Scriptures. As a matter of fact, quite the opposite...Apart from Acts 1:14, Mary is mentioned nowhere else outside the gospels. And even in the gospels, there is no support for the above doctrines.
- I Tim.2: 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
- Matthew 13: 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"
- John 7: 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.
- Matthew 12: 47 Someone told him, "Your mother and 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 and sister and mother."
- Luke 11: 27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."
- Despite these errors in belief concerning Mary, she is nevertheless a very “blessed mother.” And mothers everywhere can learn from her life and example. With that said, we ALL can learn from her life and example.

II. LESSONS FROM THE BLESSED MOTHER

A. Her Miraculous Conception

- God wants each one of us miraculously pregnant with Christ; Pregnant: full of; abundant in; see Col.1:27b; II Cor.13:5.
- The greatest thing you can do for your children is to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. My grandmother pretty much raised me, and when she died she did not leave me one red cent. But what she did leave me is worth far more than all the money in all the world. She left me an example of a godly woman, a mother who knew Jesus Christ

personally, and I am so thankful for that! I would not be where I am today if it were not for her godly example and influence in my life.

B. Humility (vv.48, 51)

- See I Cor.1:26-27; Luke 2:22-24 --- Lev.12:6-8; poor materially, but rich spiritually.
- Perhaps you find yourself in a “humble state.” That is the best place to be. Make sure you remain there. And don’t despise those things the Lord allows in your life to keep you there (Ex: the apostle Paul’s thorn in the flesh).
- Tim Keller booklet on humility

C. A Servant (v.38)

- Mary did not rebel against God’s will or question His plan. She wanted God’s will for her life, because she was His servant. She would embrace the will of God, even if it meant that no one would understand, even if Joseph breaks up with her, even if it affected everything about her life, for the rest of her life. Her getting pregnant would jeopardize her relationship with Joseph, her upcoming marriage to him, her relationship with her parents, friends, relatives, etc.
- See Luke 17:7-10; What would be unacceptable in the will of God for your life? What has been unacceptable in the will of God for your life?
- Did you know that God is a servant? See Matt.20:25-28; Luke 12:35-37.
- Context of Luke 17:7-10? See v.6; greater servant, greater faith.

D. Faith (v.38)

- She had greater faith than Zechariah the priest (Luke 1:19-20).
- Mary knew the Word of God. Her praise in vv.46-55 is filled with phrases from the OT, as well as a deep knowledge of the character and ways of God. Can’t you see Mary in the synagogue? She hung on every word that was read and taught. She meditated on the things she heard.

E. A Willingness To Suffer Disgrace For The Will Of God

- When she went back to Nazareth after three months with Elizabeth, she would have been showing. What would her parents do? Joseph did not believe her (Would you?). And think how the small town community of Nazareth must have treated her...and Mary knew that this is what she would face. She determined in her heart that she was willing to suffer whatever disgrace came with the will of God for her life.

- Hebrews 11: 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

F. A Supreme Love for God

- Mary loved the Lord more than she loved her friends, her family, her parents, herself...and *more than she loved Joseph*. This one really reveals Mary's heart for God. How many times has a young person's heart been captured so that they readily abandon all other relationships in order to be with "the one they love?" Romantic love is a powerful force in someone's life. Even though her fiancé Joseph had obviously captured a piece of her heart, his name surprisingly does not appear in Mary's encounter with Gabriel, informing Mary of her coming pregnancy. Even though a wedding was in Mary's immediate future plans, it is not what dominates her mind here. Her words are saturated with references to God, but none about Joseph. She doesn't even ask, "What will Joseph think?"
- When did Mary tell her parents about Gabriel's message to her? Was it before she went to visit Elizabeth? I don't think so, or her parents would have said, "You ain't goin' nowhere girl!" Mary left, knowing that when she returned, everything about her relationship with her friends and family would be different. And she knew that Joseph would most likely divorce her. Betrothal was taken so seriously in this culture it required a certificate of divorce to cancel plans to marry someone.
- See Luke 14:26; If the will of God for you was the breakup of a romantic relationship, even an engagement, would you do it?

G. A Commitment To Sexual Purity

- As I mentioned, the betrothal stage was taken very seriously in this culture. Once again, to break a betrothal required a certificate of divorce. When you really stop to think about this, you realize what a great opportunity both Mary and Joseph had for giving in to sexual sin. Mary didn't have to worry about getting pregnant (she was already pregnant). And if Joseph really loved her he might be tempted to sleep with her so that at least people would think the child in Mary's womb was his. But both Joseph and Mary remained pure until after they were married.
- Matthew 1: 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.
- What a rare couple Joseph and Mary were! What a righteous standard of morality they submitted to! God help us to hold to that same standard in our day! See Eph.5:3; I Thess.4:1-8.
- One of the reasons we do not see more people "pregnant" with Christ in our day is because sexual sin is so rampant in the church, and the standards of morality regarding sexual sin are incredibly lax!

- I Tim.5: 1...Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, *with absolute purity*.
- Because sexual sin is so common in the church, and because our standards are so low in this area, there is little or know godly sorrow when we do fail sexually. A real man or woman of God is convicted and affected greatly if they do fail in this area.
- Psalm 51: 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me...
- Psalm 51: 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

H. The Ultimate Pain of Motherhood (Luke 2:33-35)

- As a man I will never know exactly what a mother goes through who loses a child. Mary carried the baby Jesus in bosom for nine months, gave birth to him in stable in Bethlehem, saw God direct she and Joseph's steps in order to save young Jesus from the clutches of wicked King Herod. And Jesus was the perfect child (really, can you imagine?). Oh he puzzled Mary and Joseph and Mary when at the age of twelve he stayed back at the temple, but what does the Scripture say? (Luke 2:49-51a).

CONCLUSION

- In a sense, the same miracle that God performed in Mary, He wants to perform in each one of us, for Christ to be "conceived" in us miraculously by the Holy Spirit.
- Colossians 1: 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- God wants to make each one of us to miraculously pregnant with Christ, but perhaps He can't because...
 1. The Holy Spirit has never conceived Christ in you.
 2. You are not humble.
 3. You are not a servant.
 4. You have no faith.
 5. You are not willing to suffer disgrace for the will of God.
 6. You have no commitment to sexual purity.
 7. Some tragedy in life has turned you away from God.