

"The Blessed Mother" (Luke 1:26-56)

Danny Hodges - TS2477

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)
- 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."
- 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.

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).
 - I Tim.2: 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

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."
 - Luke 1:47...my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

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."

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.

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 doctrine concerning Mary, she is nevertheless a very "blessed mother." And mothers everywhere can learn from her life and example. As a matter of fact, ALL of us can learn from her.

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; John 3:5-6.
- The greatest thing you can do for your children is to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. Neither my mother nor my grandmother left me one red cent when they died. But what she did leave me is worth far more than all the money in the world. They left me examples of mothers 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 their godly example and influence in my life.

B. Humility (vv.48, 51)

- Luke 2:22-24 --- Lev.12:6-8; poor materially, but rich spiritually.
- Luke 1:30...you have found favor with God.
- "Charis" = Grace
- James 4:6 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- Moses started out proud, and that is why he failed in service to the Lord. Forty years later he is the most humble man on the face of the earth (Num.12:3), and that is why God was able to use him so powerfully. King Saul started out humble (I Sam.15:17), but quickly became proud, and that is what led to his downfall. Uzziah started out humble, but after God gave him success, pride led to his demise (II Chron.26). Peter started out proud, and was humbled greatly after three times denying that he even knew the Lord.
 - Prov.16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

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?

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.
 - Rom.10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

E. A Willingness To Suffer Disgrace For Christ

- 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; Mary knew 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.
 - See I Peter 4:1-5, 12-16

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. 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.
 - Luke 14:26; If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters yes, even his own life he cannot be my disciple.
 - 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

- What a great opportunity 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. Hope in Resurrection (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 her body for nine months, gave birth to him in a stable in Bethlehem, saw God direct her and Joseph's steps in order to save young Jesus from the clutches of wicked King Herod. Oh he puzzled Mary and Joseph and Mary when at the age of twelve he stayed back at the temple, but note Luke 2:49-51a. Jesus was the perfect child. Can you imagine having a perfect child, then have to witness his death on a Roman cross? But Mary would see her son again, along with the other disciples, because Jesus would rise from the grave three days after the cross! Mary's hope was beyond this present life (I Cor.15:19).

CONCLUSION

- Mary's hope was in her Son, who was also her Savior. The same Holy Spirit that miraculously conceived Christ in Mary's womb wants to miraculously conceive Christ in each one of us.
 Salvation invitation.
- What part of Mary's character do you need to become part of your character? Humility, Servant, Faith, Love for God above all others, a willingness to suffer disgrace for Christ, sexual purity?