***“Why God Chose Mary”***

Luke 1:26-38(NKJV)

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 "For with God nothing will be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.”

***We MUST Let the Lord Be Our Shepherd!***

Psalm 23:1-6

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”

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|  | Searching the Scriptures…  *Acts 17:11 - “examining the scriptures daily...”*  Lesson #1  November 8, 2019 |

**Diligently Seeking God**

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Heb. 11:6

Our seeking of God must be diligent. What does this mean? It means that we must give ourselves to the quest for God with a priority and a passion that we don’t invest in any other pursuit. God must be first in our hearts. We must be ready to sacrifice anything else – indeed *all* else – to see His face. Our hearts must be purged of any conflicting interest or competing desire. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). In our longing for God we must be utterly sincere, and in our seeking of God we must be passionately committed. He deserves no less than our all.

God’s making of the world is such that we find it necessary to seek and to search for Him, but in truth “He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27). His hiddenness in this present broken world is not meant to hinder us from finding Him, but to entice us. As He whets our appetite for Himself, God is weaning us away from our sinful, self-sufficient rebellion. He is teaching us to love Him. With convicting evidences of His power and loving tokens of His goodness, He is drawing us toward His eternal presence. “I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love” (Hosea 11:4). It is God’s good pleasure to be found by all who long for Him in honest, obedient love.

God is not neutral with regard to the inclination of our hearts. He desires that we find Him. He yearns for those who delight in Him. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). Yet there is a danger: we must not deceive ourselves that we are seeking *God* if in fact it is only certain blessings *from* God that we seek. Resisting the tendency to focus on ourselves, we must learn to seek *Him*, simply and contentedly. When we diligently do so, our reward will be God Himself and He will fill our deepest longings according to the design of His own love. Having sought God earnestly, we will be enriched by the joy of a heart that overflows with His glory.

*Diligently Seeking God – Gary Henry – Jan. 5, 2003*

**“How Readest Thou”**

*Author Unknown*

It is one thing to read the Bible through,

Another thing to read to learn and do.

Some read it with design to learn to read,

But to the subject pay but little heed.

Some read it as their duty once a week,

But no instruction from the Bible seek;

While others read it with but little care,

With no regard to how they read, nor where.

Some read to bring themselves into repute,

By showing others how they can dispute;

While others read it because their neighbors do,

To see how long 'twill take to read it through.

Some read it for the wonders that are there-

How David killed a Lion and a Bear;

While others read it with uncommon care,

hoping to find some contradictions there.

Some read it as if it did not speak to them,

But to the people at Jerusalem.

One reads with father's specs upon his head,

And sees the thing just as his father said.

Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,

Hence understand but little that they read;

For every passage in the book they bend

To make it suit that all-important end.

Some people read, as I have often thought,

To teach the book instead of being taught;

And some there are who read it out of spite.

I fear there are but few that read it right.

But read it prayerfully, and you will see,

Although men contradict, God's words agree;

For what the early Bible prophets wrote,

We find that Christ and His apostles quote.

So trust no creed that trembles to recall

What has been penned by one and verified by all.

**Why God Chose Mary**

Luke 1:26-38

1. **She Was Not Afraid To Use Her Mind**
   1. Luke 1:28, 29
   2. Luke 2:19
2. **She Was A Godly Woman**
   1. Luke 1:30
3. **She Believed in God And His Power**
   1. Luke 1:31-33, 34
   2. Luke 1:45
   3. Luke 1:35, 36, 37
4. **She Had A Humble Spirit**
   1. Luke 1:38
   2. Luke 1:48
5. **She Was Submissive to the Will of God**
   1. Luke 1:38, 39
   2. Luke 1:41-43
6. **She Knew The Scriptures**
   1. Luke 1:46-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10
   2. Luke 1:46-49, 50-53, 54-55
   3. Luke 2:19
7. **She Was Brave and Courageous**
   1. Luke 2:25-35
   2. Mark 6:3
   3. John 19:26, 27
8. **She Was Willing To Accept Responsibility**
   1. Luke 2:41-51
9. **She Expressed Confidence in Her Son**
   1. John 2:3, 5
10. **She Was Concerned About The Welfare of Others**
    1. Mark 3:20, 21
    2. Mark 3:31-35
11. **She Was Faithful to the End**
    1. John 19:25-27
    2. Luke 2:35
    3. Acts 1:14