**WHY MARY?**

**Three Characteristics of Godliness Illustrated in Mary’s Life**

*“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And the angel came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you.’ 29* *But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30 Then the angel told her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.’*

*34 Mary asked the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?’*

*35 The angel replied to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.’*

*38 ‘See, I am the Lord’s servant,’ said Mary. ‘May it happen to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.*

*39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah 40 where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth.”* (Luke 1:26-40)

**WE LEARN FROM MARY THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMISSION TO GOD**

* *“**’See, I am the Lord’s servant,’ said Mary. ‘May it happen to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.”* (Luke 1:38)
* **There comes a moment when God asks each of us to do something that we should obey. And we face the same dilemma that Mary faced. Will we accept or turn from it?**

**WE LEARN FROM MARY HOW TO EMBRACE SURPRISES FROM GOD**

* *“But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.”* (Luke 1:29).
* *“And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”* (Luke 2:18-19).
* **When we submit to the Lord by faith, we discover He is always there for us. He hears our prayers. He meets our needs.**

**WE LEARN FROM MARY ABOUT THE SUFFERING THAT ACCOMPANIES FAITHFULNESS TO GOD**

* **When you put Christmas together with Easter, when you realize that the cradle and the grave have a straight line drawn between them, then Christmas becomes more profound and more meaningful.**
* **There’s no reason for the cradle if there isn't any cross.**
* Jesus - *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* (Luke 23:34)
* Jesus - *“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”* (Luke 23:43)
* *“About three in the afternoon Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’”* (Matthew 27:46)
* *“After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, ‘I’m thirsty.’”* (John 19:28)
* *“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.”* **(John 19:30).**
* *“And Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.’ Saying this, he breathed his last.”* (Luke 23:46).

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* *“When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ 27 Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.”* (John 19:26-27).
* *“Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, ‘Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed— 35 and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”* (Luke 2:34-35
* **Our Lord suffered, Mary suffered, and we will also experience the suffering that comes with living in this sin ravaged world.**
* **The good news is, that this life is temporary and we will one day be with the Lord forever freed from suffering and death!**
* **Have you invited Jesus to come into your heart and take up His residency within you?**