

**A Miraculous Mother**  
**Luke 1:26-38**  
**December 1, 2019**

Last week, we concluded the Gospel of Matthew (written first possibly in the 40's, maybe early 50's - As of December 1994, findings by German papyrus expert Carsten Thiede suggest we may actually possess copies of Matthew that date close to the very time of Jesus- he bases this on careful handwriting analysis of the manuscript) by discussing the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord in "The Remarkable Throne" (the cross) and the fact that today, Jesus sits on his rightful throne – at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. Today, we are backing up some 33 plus years before those events and are heading back to circumstances just prior to the miraculous conception in Luke's Gospel.

**PRAY**

**Luke 1:1-25** reference on screen and discuss, as I read these verses, how Zechariah was unwilling to accept the miraculous message the angel gave him concerning what he believed to be impossible (contrast Mary with this in **verses 26-38**).

In Scripture, Mary only speaks four times (as opposed to Joseph). She never speaks in Matthew's gospel or Mark's gospel. (She is mentioned by name one time in **Mark 6:3**, but never speaks.)

She speaks in: (ESV)

<b>Luke 1:34</b>	today's message	9 words
<b>Luke 1:38</b>	today's message	17 words ("Let It Be" Paul McCartney)
<b>Luke 1:46-55</b>	(probably in 2 weeks)	137 words (10)
<b>John 2:3</b>	"they have no wine"	4 words

**Total 167 words – That's it!!!**

Her name is Mary. She has been called "Holy Mary", "Holy Virgin of Virgins", "Mother of Christ", "Blessed Mother", "Mother Most Pure", "Mother Most Chaste", "Mother Most Admirable", "Mother undefiled", "Mother Most Prudent", "Virgin Most Merciful", "Mirror of Justice", "Seat of Wisdom", "Cause of Our Joy", "Ark of the Covenant", "Tower of David", "Help of Christians", "Queen of Patriarchs", "Queen of Prophets", "Queen of Apostles". Today we will be discussing her as "Miraculous Mother."

Luke's gospel begins with events and circumstances six months prior to Matthew's. The emphasis of Luke's gospel "Just what the doctor ordered..."

Luke alone records the five (5) great tributes of praise connected to Christ's birth:

1. Elizabeth (1:41-45) "filled with Holy Spirit" (vs. 41)
2. Mary (1:46-55) "The Magnificat" carrying the Christ Child
3. Zachariah (1:67-79) "The Nunc Benedictus" Carrying the Christ Child (vs. 67)
4. The angels (2:13-14) praising God
5. Simeon [Anna] (2:25-32) Simeon - "In the Spirit" (vs. 27)  
Anna - "worshiping, fasting, praying" (vs. 37)

3 women - 2 men - angels

(Wrote ¼ of the entire New testament himself)

Dr. Luke, *the Gentile physician*, author of the two (2) volume work Luke -Acts, was not an eyewitness to the Christ-Jesus our Lord. Apparently he did not come to be a believer until sometime later - perhaps after Paul was saved and then asked him to join his missionary team (see the "they" statements in the early missionary travels of Paul versus the "we" statements beginning **Acts 16:10**. Now, in regard to the "eyewitnesses and servants of the word" statements beginning in **verse 2 of Chapter 1**.

Screen 6

**Luke 1:1-4** **1** Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of all the things that have been accomplished among us, **2** just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, **3** it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught .

Screen 7

**“The prologue of Luke ranks among the finest Greek writings of the First Century and demonstrates Luke’s skill as a writer.” ESV Study Bible**

It is all but unanimous that one of Luke's eyewitnesses is Mary, the mother of Jesus. (There were certainly others as well - but this makes the account extremely powerful!)

In my mind's eye I can just see the physician, with his ever-gentle bedside manner, interviewing the aged Mary. (The Gospel of Luke was written somewhere between 60-61 A.D.) She would have been anywhere from 73-75 (78-79 possibly) years old when he interviewed her. She was quite a lady! A faithful witness herself (last week).

Mary would have begun her interview with Luke by telling him of the first appearance (in the New Testament). Angel Gabriel, to Zachariah, her aged cousin Elizabeth's husband. (**Gabriel "the strength of God"**) They had no children even though she and her husband were "both righteous before God" (**verse 6**). Then, she proceeds to recount her own experiences in **verse 26**.

**Luke 1:26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Screen 8

Gabriel, who had just visited with Zechariah six (6) months earlier, now comes and communicates with Mary. There are only (2) angels named in all of Scripture - Michael (see **Daniel 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7 [5x]**) and Gabriel (see **Daniel 8:16; 9:21 [3x]** and here). [**3-Lucifer <"good" – unfallen Ez. 28:11-19; Is. 14:12-17**] \* The last time Gabriel appeared in Scripture was in:

Screen 9

Screen 10

**Daniel 9:21-25 21** while I was speaking in prayer, the man **Gabriel**, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding **23** At the beginning of your pleas for **mercy** (a word went out,) and I have come to tell it to you, for you are **greatly loved**. Therefore

consider the word and understand the vision. **24** "Seventy weeks are decreed about **your people** and your **holy city** to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. **25** Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an **anointed one**, a prince (**Messiah**), then shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time."

In these verses, he is interpreting Jeremiah's prophecy for Daniel - of the "seventy sevens" -490 years (**69-70**) before the coming of the Messiah! \* Hallelujah! God had told Daniel and enabled Gabriel to interpret the prophecy (literally, "strong man of God" in Hebrew) hundreds of years earlier of His plan to become human – **think about that!** And now that the time has come for the long-awaited Messiah to be announced to His mother - he, Gabriel gets "to do the honors." If you read Jewish literature and even the Bible itself, it has been hundreds of years since God had communicated anything new - regarding revelation - to men. There was over **400 years** of silence from God! This verse begins God's second communication (the first was with Zechariah) in over four (4) centuries. The town is "Nazareth", a village most noted for being un-noteworthy. **In Babylon hundreds of miles away, a captures people.... The worst thing that had ever happened to God's people up until that time!**

John 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

**Luke 1:27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Screen 11

The young virgin contrasts with the old priest, Zechariah. She is "betrothed," which means that she was legally married but the marriage was forbidden to be consummated until after the actual wedding ceremony. Her beloved fiancé was Joseph, a carpenter who lived in the same town where she lived. He was a descendant of David according to both **Matthew 1:16** and **Luke 3:23**. Throughout the Old Testament, the Messiah is stated to be a direct descendant of Israel's greatest warrior/poet/king. The virgin's name, Mary, is a derivative of Miriam – literally "bitterness" (Who's Who In the Bible, p. 283). **(My mom's name was Mary Ellen.) ("Mary" - the meaning of names)**

**Luke 1:28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, **0 favored one** the Lord is with you!"

Screen12

**Sounds like Gabriel in Daniel.** What a powerful and beautiful greeting from the strong man of God! I think he really looked at her intensely- he probably had always wondered what she was exactly going to look like! (Daniel was written almost 500 years earlier.) Mary is called "favored one" because she is the recipient of God's grace.

**Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

"blessed us" is the only other occurrence of the verb - "**Favored One**" in the New Testament (The Expositor's Bible Commentary, p. 830). This grace (**favor**) is freely given to all believers apart from any merit of their own. "the Lord is with you"

**God is not dead nor does He sleep!** (same word as "highly favored" in Old Testament) recalls the way the angel of the Lord had addressed Gideon to assure him of God's help in the assignment he was about to receive (see [Judges 6:12](#)). Both Mary and her people, the Jewish race, believed at that time that God was FAR from them. What do you think about yourself this morning? Believers, do you feel that God is FAR from you? He is not. If so, who moved? Even if it has been years since you have heard His voice -> perhaps He's about to rock your world with some supernatural news - just as He did Mary long ago... Don't you know that you are "highly favored" of God?

Screen 13

[Proverbs 12:2](#) A good man obtains favor from the Lord,

[Luke 1:29](#) But she was greatly troubled at the [saying,](#) and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Screen 14

Though Zechariah had been "[gripped with fear](#)" ([verse 12](#)) at the very appearance of the angel, it was the angel's [words](#) that troubled Mary. She didn't understand what those words meant.

[Luke 1:30](#) And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Screen 15

She's not just the "[highly favored](#)" one, but she had actually found favor with God. Gabriel knew she did not understand the greeting!

[Genesis 6:8](#) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

[\* Mary really knew her Bible. \* (**The Old Testament**) this explanation would have brought her comfort.]

**Luke 1:31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Screen 16

This verse is almost identical to **Isaiah 7:14**, except in Isaiah, his name is Immanuel, God with us... \* Mary really knew her Bible \* and this further explanation would have even brought her more comfort. Jesus (Yeshua) was a very common name in Old Testament times and continued to be a popular name through the First Century A. D. \*("Jesus Barabbas" - **Matthew 27:16**).\*

**Matthew 1:21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will **save** his people from their sins.

. . . tells us why he was given this name (Ultimately we did not need a preacher/teacher/healer/ leader/revolutionary (miracle worker)- though Jesus was all of these and the greatest one who ever lived! In each category.)

**(Ultimately, we needed a Savior!)**

**Luke 1:32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Screen 17

Though Gabriel gives John the accolade, "he will be great before the Lord" (**vs. 15**), no such accolade is given to Jesus except "great" and will be called "Son of the Most High" - this is saying He is the Messiah. "The Lord will give to him the throne of his father David" - direct fulfillment of the prophecies of **2 Samuel 7:12-14** and **Psalms 2:7-9**.



**Luke 1:33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **Do you know Him today?**

Screen 18

These have to be the greatest words she has ever heard in her life! (**12-13 years old**) Gabriel is clearly explaining that she is going to be the mother of the Messiah! He is continually giving her Scriptures from the Old Testament to comfort her and help her to understand.

**20% of millennial Jews believe Jesus is the Son of God. **Here Me** - the first Century Jews/Jewish scribes and scholars accepted every single New Testament prophecy that had been given in the Old Testament originally as Messianic. Judaism has changed in the last 2000 years **Study:** How the New Testament uses the Old Testament and you will be blessed! \***

Screen 19

**Luke 1:34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Screen 20

**Difference between doubt and sincere **curiosity.**** \*This is a statement of belief - she assumes she will conceive - she is just not sure exactly how! \* **(Compare and contrast to Zechariah in previous verses... )**

Mary does not ask how God will accomplish this. In fact, this question tells us that she immediately believed the angel and that she would become pregnant before marriage/consummation.

**Luke 1:35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-the Son of God.

Screen 21

>MacArthur's explanation< (copied text)

Once again, Luke mentions the Holy Spirit, as he does six (6) more times in the first two (2) Chapters of this Gospel. "..Overshadow" carries the sense of the holy, powerful presence of God, as in the description of the cloud that "covered" the tabernacle when the tent was filled with the glory of God (see [Exodus 40:35](#) and [Psalm 91:4](#)). The word is also used to describe the Mount of Transfiguration in all three (3) accounts (see [Matthew 17:5](#); [Mark 9:7](#) and [Luke 9:34](#) [overshadowed in ESV]).

**Luke 1:36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Screen 22

Perhaps Elizabeth's name (as she was called) was "Elizabeth the barren" (see her comment from [Luke 1:25](#)).

**Luke 1:37** "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Screen 23

Repeat this verse out loud at least three (3) times. **(Hopeful encouragement and vision for your life)**

< **Someone here today needs to hear this!** >

I don't know your circumstances, but I know your solution - **JESUS!**

Screen 24

**Luke 1:38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

-What a mighty spiritual leader Mary is...

**This is Mary's way of saying, "I believe everything you have just told me - especially that nothing is impossible with God!"** Hallelujah! Jesus is conceived somewhere between **verses 38 and 39**. Jesus, God the Son, has just vacated Heaven – Gabriel and the rest of the angels must have been absolutely beside themselves with him (one of the three in the Trinity – separated – while inseparable still). **Let it be with me, too Lord. B.M.**

Mary had just showed how much she is willing to be obedient to the miraculous and to God's will – way above her own. With blessings came responsibilities (the "Miraculous Mother"). A willingness to obey God - a willingness to allow God to accomplish His will for her life - NOT HER WAY FOR HER LIFE. God's way looked a whole lot different than her way and she was spiritually up for the task at age 13-15 - WOW!!! What about you today? How obedient are you willing to be to the miraculousness of God's will for your life?

**PRAYER AND INVITATION**