

Misunderstood People of Christmas: Mary

Mary was a humble servant

She was from a small town of no particular consequence in its day

Nazareth, Luke 1:26

Greek word suggests a village

In Galilee, probably mentioned because in the day, Luke's readers would have had no idea where it was.

She was betrothed to Joseph

In the Semitic world young ladies could be betrothed by the age of 12.

Betrothal meant that a young man and a young woman were legally married, but they were not 'co-habiting' and had not consummated the relationship with physical intimacy. The period of betrothal could last anywhere from 9 months to a year or so.

She was willing to accept the unusual mission God had appointed for her, 1:38

I am yours

I am your servant (describes one of humble station)

I am willing to let you use me in any way

She didn't seem to be aware of God's high evaluation of herself.

She gave her Lord and master unusual praise

Similar to Hannah's praise in 1 Sam 2

She praised God for his work on her behalf, 1:46-49

She praised God for his acts to all, 1:50-53

She praised God for his acts toward Israel, 1:54-55

She too needed a savior!

1:47

There is no biblical reason to assume her perpetual virginity

Mary was an unusual servant

She was an unusual young lady

“highly favored,” 1:28

A recipient of God’s grace, an object of God’s favor

“you have found favor,” 1:30

God’s gracious choice of someone through whom God does something special, usually in the OT, it is freely bestowed

She would give birth to an unusual baby

He will be great, 1:32

An extremely significant person before God

and be called the son of the most high, 1:32

It also suggested that this person had a special intimate relationship to God

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 1:32

He will be a fulfillment of OT prophecies, 2 Sam 7; 1 Chron 22 et al

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, 1:33

He will be Israel’s king

Forever... his kingdom will never end

2 Sam 7:12-16; 1 Kings 8:25; Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 110:4

There is something clearly unique about this baby.

This story is about the savior Jesus Christ!

She would become pregnant in a unique fashion, 1:34-35

Several times her virginity is referenced, v 27 (2X), v 34

How then?

Holy Spirit will come upon you

The power of the most high will overshadow you

She gave birth to her baby in an unusual fashion

Not like the Christmas cards

Smelly, dirty, dark,

Some danger perhaps

God didn't make this "easy."

She came to understand that this situation would pose some unusual problems

What would people think?

What would her beloved Joseph think?

What would her parents think?

What would her community think?

What about her reputation immediately and later on?

So what?

Could God trust you with a mission like this?

Would you model Mary's unmitigated devotion to her Lord Jesus?

Does God's glory mean that much to you?