

# Lessons From Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Lk. 1:30-39

# Introduction

- As Luke chapter 1 opens, the Messianic Age with its wonderful blessings that God had purposed before the foundation of the world (1 Pet. 1:18-20); promised from the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15) and preached unto Abraham (Gen. 12:1-7; 22:18; Gal. 3:8) was at hand.
- The forerunner for Jesus, prophesied by Isaiah and Malachi, for had been announced to doubting Zacharias. His name was to be called John. Elizabeth had been with child for 6 months, when the same heavenly messenger, Gabriel, is sent to a young woman -- a virgin -- from Nazareth of Galilee. He tells Mary that she is to conceive and become the mother of Jesus -- to whom would be given the throne of his father David, and whose kingdom would be without end.

# *Introduction*

- Believing this message, she asks how this is to come about and is told that this conception would be a miracle – not with a human father – but by the power God -- with whom nothing is impossible.
- Luke records her words of humble submission, as she says, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” (Lk. 1:38)
- Although relatively brief, the account of the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the great character studies in the N.T., and one in which some great lessons and examples can be seen.
- Before we consider these, look at and refute the Mary of Catholic imagination and mythology.

# The Mary of Catholic Mythology

- ***Given names and titles not found in the Bible:***
  - Mother of God; Mother of the Church; Queen of Heaven; Queen of the Angels; Queen of Peace; Incomparable Holiness; Most Holy and All-Pure Mother of God; Revered Mother of God; The Incommunicable Mother of God; Second Eve, Intercessor; Mediatrix, Co-Redemptrix; Gate of Heaven; etc.
  - Is ascribed a position (office) in heaven with the Father and Son. “...and as Mary’s office of Mother of God immeasurably surpassed in dignity...the Apostles, so did her grace super abound over theirs. (Faith of Our Fathers, pg. 209)

# The Mary of Catholic Mythology

- ***“Immaculate Conception.”***
  - The false notion that for Jesus to be without sin, Mary had to be the only person conceived without inheriting a depraved nature and the guilt of Adam’s sin. Catholicism teaches that she was the exception to the rule. In addition, and in consequence of this, the false teaching that Mary never sinned.
  - God’s Word: ***None are born with “original sin”.***
    - Sin is not a matter of genetics, but one’s own thoughts, words and deeds. (Ezek. 18:20; Matt. 18:3-4)
    - Romans 3:23; I Jn. 1:10; Luke 1:47 → “God my Savior”.

# The Mary of Catholic Mythology

- ***“Perpetual Virginity”***

- The false teaching that Mary never had marital relations.
- God’s word clearly teaches that Mary had other children.
  - Matt. 1:25 → 25 but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus. (NET)
  - Matt. 13:55-56 → 55 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother named Mary? **And aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? 56 And aren't all his sisters here with us? Where did he get all this?"**
  - Gal. 1:19 → 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.
  - John 2:12 → 12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there a few days.
  - John 7:5 → 5 (For not even his own brothers believed in him.)

# The Mary of Catholic Mythology

- ***“The Assumption of Mary.”***
  - The false assertion is that living a sinless life, Mary did not die and was taken body in soul into heaven, and is face to face in the presence of God.
  - **When God took people without their seeing death, he told us – Enoch (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah (II Kings 2:11)**
    - The Bible tells us nothing about the end of Mary’s earthly life.
    - There is no scriptural reason to believe that she was an exception to Heb. 9:27.

# The Mary of Catholic Mythology

- ***Intercessor, Mediator -- Mediatrix of All Graces*** –
  - Leo XIII, in the text referred to, spoke of her, as having "practically limitless power."
  - St. Pius X said she was the "dispensatrix of all the gifts, and is the "neck" connecting the Head of the Mystical Body to the Members. But all power flows through the neck.
  - Pius XII said "Her kingdom is as vast as that of her Son and God, since nothing is excluded from her dominion."
  - "Mary hears and sees us, now that she is elevated to heaven, and stands face to face before God. (Faith of Our Fathers, pg. 222)
  - "Never will our prayers find a readier acceptance than when offered through her. (ibid. pg. 224)
  - God's word teaches → Rom. 8:34; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25; I Jn. 2:1; Rom. 1:25

# Jesus, The One Mediator

- **Rom. 8:34** → 34 It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- **1Tim. 2:5** → 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
- **Heb. 4:14-16** → 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- **Heb. 7:25** → 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
- **1Jn. 2:1** → 1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- **Rom 1:25** → 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

## *Where Do These Teachings Come From?*

- A perverting of scripture. i.e. (Lk. 1:28)
- Human wisdom → “we can’t conceive”; “it seems”
- Human concept of God → “it would be unworthy of God...” (Isa. 55:8-9)
- “The church teaches” (Matt. 22:29; Lk. 10:26)
- Creeds of men → Nicene, etc. (Matt. 15:9)
- “Eminent scholars” (Acts 17:11)
- Poets: Holmes, Wordsworth, Longfellow, Poe
- Ships and building, etc.
- Note: Gal. 1:6-9; II Jn. 9; I Pet. 4:11

# *The Character Of Mary As Seen In The Bible*

- Chaste – respect for God’s will and law of marriage. (cf. Lk. 1:27,34; Gen. 39:8-10)
- Believing– in the word of God. (Lk. 1:45; Rom. 4:20)
- Courageous. (Matt. 1:19; Josh. 1:9)
- Humble. (1:48; 52-53; Matt. 18:4)
- Spiritually perceptive and meditative. (Lk. 1:29; 2:19; 2:51; 1:46; Rom. 10:17; II Tim. 2:15)
- Unqualified submission to the will of God. (Lk. 1:38)