

## Message Notes for Sunday December 10, 2017

“Mary: A Christmas Portrait”      Luke 1:46-55

When we think of Christmas, many characters come to mind: angels, shepherds, wise men, even wicked king Herod. But other than baby Jesus, no one plays as central a role as Mary.

A Nazareth teenager, espoused to Joseph (in that culture, a legal marriage contract without sexual intimacy), Mary received a visit from Gabriel, one of God’s choice angels, who explained that she had been chosen to give birth to the Messiah, Jesus. Puzzled as to how this could happen since she was sexually pure, Gabriel answered “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.” (Luke 1:35).

While Bible-believing Christians have affirmed the miracle of Jesus’ virgin birth, questions have been raised about Mary. Is she a sinless source of grace? Was she also “born of a virgin?” The answer to those questions can be found in Luke 1:47 where Mary, in her “Magnificat,” affirms, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

The significance of this statement is that Mary, like each of us, was a sinner who needed a Savior, and who recognized that need. I believe she was a young woman of faith who understood that her Son was both the Son of God and the Savior of all who place their trust in Him.

- I.      God and Mary: Compassionate involvement (46-48)
  - a.    Response
  - b.    Regard
  - c.    Result
  
- II.     God and history: Sovereign control (49-53)
  - a.    Salvation
  - b.    Strength
  - c.    Provision
  
- III.    God and Israel: Faithful loyal love (54-55)
  - a.    What He did
  - b.    Why He did it
  - c.    For how long?

Our response:

- Worship
- Joy
- Trust