

WE WISH YOU A “MARY” CHRISTMAS
A Christmas Sermon Series on the Person Blessed by God
Message One: The Character of Mary
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, December 5, 2004

INTRODUCTION:

Some background information about Mary:

1. The Myths

The following beliefs are *de fide*, or “of faith,” which means that these beliefs are mandatory beliefs for Roman Catholics. These were declared *ex cathedra* by the Pope and the Council of Bishops.

- a. The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation: December 8)

The doctrine that was decided in the 19th century by a council of the RCC, that stated that Mary was conceived without original sin. This has no Biblical support. Carl Jung stated that this doctrine in effect resulted in the Catholic Church elevating Mary, in the popular mind, to the level of “goddess.”

- b. The Assumption of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation: August 15)

The doctrine decided by a recent council of the RCC that states that Mary was “assumed,” body and soul, into heaven.

The following beliefs are “traditions,” not “dogma.”

- c. The Eternal Virginity of Mary

This is a tradition that maintains that Mary remained a virgin all her life, which also means that she was assumed into heaven as a virgin. She is known as the “Blessed Virgin Mary,” or BVM.

- d. That Mary is “The Mother of God”

- e. That Mary was sinless

2. The Facts

- a. Mary was a “normal” person

- b. Mary was most likely very young (in her teens)
- c. Mary needed salvation like any other person
- d. Mary gave birth to other children
- e. Mary died as any other person would

In this series we will take a threefold look at Mary and draw practical applications to our own lives. We shall consider:

1. The Character of Mary
2. The Commitment of Mary
3. The Calling of Mary

Luke 1:26-45:

²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³"And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵And the angel answered and said to her, "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. ³⁶"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷"For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. ³⁹Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit. ⁴²Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³“But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴“For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵“Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

PROPOSITION: We can see Mary’s character in four aspects of her life; aspects that can be emulated in our lives.

I. MARY’S CHARACTER IS SEEN IN HER PURITY. Luke 1:28-34.

- A. Mary Was Pure Spiritually. Vss. 28-30.
- B. Mary Was Pure Physically. Vs. 34.

II. MARY’S CHARACTER IS SEEN IN HER PIETY. Luke 1:38

- A. We See Mary’s Faithfulness to the Lord.
- B. We See Mary’s Faith in the Lord.

III. MARY’S CHARACTER IS SEEN IN HER PRIORITIES.

- A. Mary’s Faith in God Came Before Her Person.
- B. Mary’s Faith in God Came Before Her Partner.

IV. MARY’S CHARACTER IS SEEN IN HER PROPRIETY. Luke 1:39-56.

- A. Mary Maintained a Godly Attitude in Trying Times. Vss. 39-45.

³⁹Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³“But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴“For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my

ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

B. Mary Maintained Godly **Actions** in Trying Times. Vss. 46-56.

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

⁴⁷ “My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.
⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And exalted the lowly.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of His mercy,
⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

APPLICATION:

1. What myths have you believed about Mary?
2. Have you allowed the fear of error to divert your attention from a scriptural study of who Mary was?
3. How will you emulate the character of Mary in your life?
4. Are you pure spiritually? Physically?
5. How faithful are you to the Lord?
6. What are you willing to give up for the Lord?
7. How will this Christmas be different from previous ones?