

Serving Like Mary
12-29-13

We are sometimes shy about praising the virtues of Mary, the mother of Jesus, because of the inappropriate attention she receives from denominations. However, we ought to know that she is a woman of great esteem before God.

In Luke 1:26-39 we see her told by an angel she will soon bear the Messiah. She is an unmarried girl; what would be the consequences of being pregnant with a child not your husband or betrothed? *"If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death"* (Deuteronomy 22:23-24) I think we could say that God is asking something of great difficulty of Mary.

As servants, we serve at the express desire of God. God sometimes asks hard things of His servants. In Matthew 10:35-37 He said we may have to turn our backs on our families. In Luke 9:23-25 He said we will need to bear burdens daily and deny ourselves. In Matthew 19:12 He said some may not be able to marry for the sake of the Kingdom. We often express our frustration or anger in being given a hard burden.

How did Mary react to her hard burden? We find the answer in Luke 1:40-56. There we see that she sees this as Good News. She declares that great things would come through her. She saw that all Israel would be blessed, and that she would personally be blessed.

Being a Servant like Mary means learning all about perspective. Mary saw the bigger picture in her life. Perspective is a big deal when faced with a burden. Remember the 12 spies of Israel? They all saw the same things, and ten of them declared their obstacles impossible, while two saw only victory. It was all about perspective. In Romans 8:34-38 Paul declares that there is no obstacle that separates us from God. Peter said something similar pertaining to trials in I Peter 1:7-9.

Being a Servant like Mary is also about finding joy in adversity or service. We have all worked without someone who hates their job. They bring misery to everyone by their attitude. How we face our burdens is the deciding factor of whether we emerge victorious or a failure.