

MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To give a Portrait of Mary who was selected by God to be the Mother of the Messiah.

2. Mary, the mother of Jesus, holds a place apart from all other women - that was never known before and will never be known again.
 - a. Her parents names are not given, but she was a descendant of David
 - i. Ps. 132:11 "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."
 - ii. Rom. 1:3 "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;"
 - b. The name Mary is used more frequently than other woman's name in the N.T.
 - c. Mary is the N.T. form of the name "MIRIAM" used in the O.T.
 - d. She was the first of six women named Mary named in the N.T.
 - i. Very few verses in the N.T. about her - most in Matt. and Lk. - last in Acts 1:14
 - ii. She was living at Nazareth in Galilee
 - iii. She was betrothed or engaged to a carpenter named Joseph

3. Of all the portraits in the Bible, there is none more beautiful or impressive than that of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Discussion

I. FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD - Luke 1:26-30

- A. "Hail" - a salutation or Greeting
- B. Word "Favor" means v. 30
 - 1. Grace in a Person — graciousness
 - 2. What delights - element of a delightful person
 - 3. Charming element in a Person
 - 4. Good Pleasure or Pleasing
 - 5. Kindness - good will - Joy - what Pleases
- C. "Highly Favored" - Luke 1 :28 - or Found Favor with God - Luke 1:30
 - 1. Chosen in preference to all the women upon earth, to be the mother of the Messiah
 - 2. Thou art favored above all others
 - 3. Jesus was also Favored. Luke 2:52 With God and Man
- D. Mary was the kind of a woman God could use in his service
 - 1. No one knows when God can use them in his service
 - 2. But He can if we are the right kind of Person
 - 3. We must be fit for God's use or found in Favor with God
 - 4. II Tim. 2:21
 - 5. Are we fit for God's use ?

II. OBEDIENT ACCEPTANCE - Luke 1:38

A. "Be it unto me according to thy word"

1. She accepted what Gabriel had said unto her
2. This was an expression of resignation to the will of God, and of faith in the Promise
3. To be the handmaid of the Lord is to be submissive and obedient.
4. It is the same as saying I fully believe all that is said; and am Perfectly ready to obey all the commands of the Lord
5. Mary's soul bowed in sweet confidence and submission to this divinely revealed purpose.
6. There was no anger - sadness - disappointment - resentment or Plans for an abortion

B. Jesus her son was obedient

1. Matt. 26:39 "...not as I will, but as thou wilt."
2. John 4:34 "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."
3. John 5:30 "...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

C. We must be obedient to God's will

1. Acts 21:14 "...the will of the Lord be done."
2. Resolve that we will say and feel "thy will be done" in all things

III. MARY MAGNIFY'S GOD - Luke 1:46-55

- A. These are most of the recorded words of Mary. More here than anywhere in the Bible. It reminds us of Hannah's song in I Sam. 2:1-10 under similar circumstances.
- B. Praises God for what He has done for Her - v. 46-50
1. Mary was rejoicing because she was chosen to be mother of the Messiah
 2. She was from a very poor, humble family - but God chose her.
 3. He could have easily found a rich, high society, daughter of a great leader or king.
 4. All generations after her would call her blessed.
 5. But this does not mean that we are to worship her or to pray to her.
- C. Praises God for what He had done and would do to the oppressors of his people - v. 51-53
1. God has control over the affairs of men - He puts down the great and lifts up the small
 2. The strength of God is directed against those who are wicked.
 3. He helps those who are humble and godly
- D. Praises God for what He has done and will do for Israel - v. 54-55
1. Israel was God's chosen people - He fulfilled His promises to them.
 2. God spoke to Abraham and all the others that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed - Gen. 18:18
 3. God has now remembered or is fulfilling this promise through her.

E. We are to magnify Christ in our life

1. Acts 19:17 - "...and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified."
2. Phil. 1:20 - "...Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

IV. PONDERED THESE THINGS IN HER HEART - Luke 2:19, 33, 51

A. Pondered - to put one thing with another in considering circumstances - Luke 2:19

1. Mary laid them up in her mind and compared the things which the shepherds had told her with what the angel had announced to her when he first visited her.
2. The other people may have soon forgotten all of these things, but Mary kept them in her heart.
3. She weighed them in her heart. Every circumstance relative to her son's birth, Mary treasured up in her memory; and every new circumstance she weighed or compared with those which had already taken place, in order to acquire the fullest information concerning the nature and mission of her son.
4. She remembered what the angel had said to her; what had happened to Elizabeth and to the shepherds and all the extraordinary circumstances that had attended the birth of her son.
5. A mother does not forget those things.
6. She kept them in her mind, and thought about them often and anxiously.
7. Mary probably said nothing at this time, it was all too sacred and marvelous to talk
8. This made a permanent impression on her memory.

B. Luke 2:33 "And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him."

1. Both parents were astonished at what this man had said about the child.
2. They did not forget it.

C. Luke 2:51 "...but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart."

1. The mysteries were beyond her comprehension
2. Yet she treasured them
3. She regarded these things as her dearest treasures !

D. We need to meditate

1. Pondering and meditating on important things is valuable
2. I Tim. 4:15 "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." Meditate = Revolve in the Mind
3. Ps. 1:2 "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

CONCLUSION

1. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a good model for today
 - a. Found favor with God - we should also - useful for the master
 - b. Obeyed God's will - we must also obey - thy will be done
 - c. Magnified God - we must do the same in our life - make Christ larger
 - d. Pondered these things - we should also meditate on the truth

2. This woman was the mother of Jesus and if we should compare her life to His we see her life as a dim shadow that fades away in the sunlight of His life.
3. Though she never wore fine clothes or precious jewels her life was happy and successful.
4. Even though she never traveled farther than from Palestine to Egypt her life story has covered the whole earth.
5. She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy - named Jesus.
 - a. She watched over him with loving care as he grew.
 - b. She gently reared him so that He increased in wisdom and stature, and in Favor with God and man. - Lk. 2:52
6. As Jesus was being lifted on the cross her heart was breaking with grief - but she appears again after the resurrection and the last mention of her is after His ascension.
7. There is no record of when or how she died. But she lives on as the most beautiful example of motherhood.
8. Prov. 31:29-31 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

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