

# MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS



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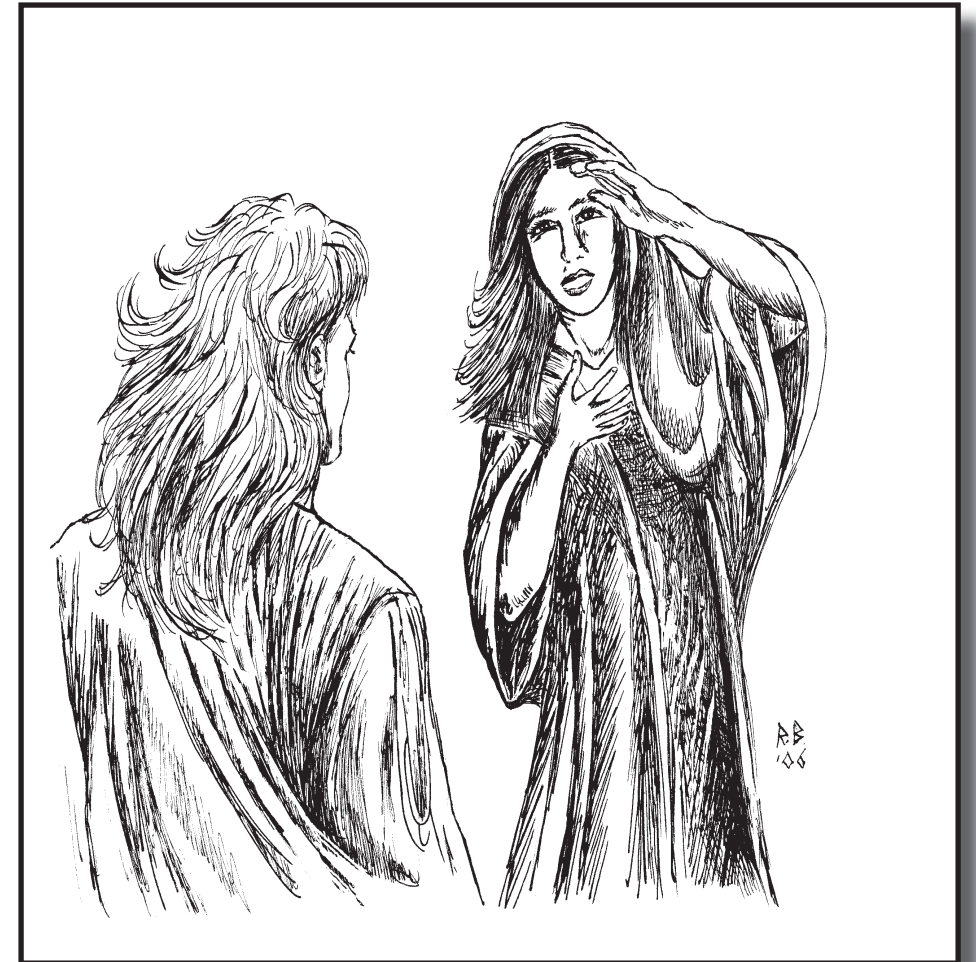
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**CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES**

# Mary, the Mother of Jesus

**Read Luke 1:26-56 in your Bible.**

The great moment for which the people of God had been waiting for hundreds of years finally arrived. The Messiah was ready to come. Would God send his angel Gabriel to Jerusalem to announce the birth of the Savior to some princess? No. Gabriel came to a peasant girl from a small town in Galilee engaged to be married to the village carpenter.

## **The Announcement to Mary**

The young girl Mary lived in the small village of Nazareth. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. Gabriel's appearance and greeting startled Mary. The angel hastened to reassure her and tell her that she had been chosen by God to give birth to the Son of God. Mary questioned the angel's announcement and asked how it could be possible since she was a virgin. Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and make it possible for her to conceive a child. To reassure Mary, Gabriel informed her that her relative Elizabeth, who had been barren many years, was going to have a child in her old age, and even now was in her sixth month of pregnancy. The angel assured the young maiden, *"Nothing is impossible with God"* (Luke 1:37). Mary humbly accepted the announcement.

## **Mary's Visit to Elizabeth**

Mary took the hint from Gabriel that perhaps she should visit her relative Elizabeth, wife of the aged priest Zechariah. She hurried and made the trip to the hill country of Judea, probably to a village south of Jerusalem. She would find in Elizabeth an understanding person she could confide in and one who would provide her with wise counsel.

When Mary greeted her aged relative, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy, as though to salute the Messiah conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God gave Elizabeth spiritual insight and she recognized Mary as the mother of the promised Redeemer. She cried out with a loud voice and pronounced a blessing upon Mary and also a blessing upon the baby in Mary's womb. The young virgin then burst out in a song of praise to God (Luke 1:46-55). She sang about God's greatness and mercy.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months before returning home. They likely spent their time meditating, talking, and rejoicing over the miraculous work of God in their lives

## **Mary Returned to Nazareth**

As Mary made the long journey back to Nazareth, she likely thought of problems she would face when she got home. Would Joseph understand? Would he break their engagement? What about her family? She knew there would be the public stigma and scandal because of her pregnancy. Her absence for three months and then returning expecting a child would only heighten the misunderstanding and ugly gossip.

But Mary had complete trust in God. She gladly accepted the role God had chosen for her, whatever the consequences. As she walked home, she pondered everything that happened. No doubt she wondered about the future. She wondered what God had in store for her and for the baby in her womb. Little did she know that in six months she would be making this long journey again, this time to the little town of Bethlehem, and accompanied by her husband. As she walked up the hill to the village of Nazareth, she knew the future was in God's hands. And she knew also that she had placed her own life in his hands. Mary was ready.

## **Conclusion**

God used Mary. And God can use you. He can change your life. Jesus can forgive your sins. He is the compassionate Savior who loves you with an everlasting love.

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner. But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins. You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.

**Pray this prayer:** *"Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."*

**Welcome into God's family!** Share with others that you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.