

MARY, THE MOTHER OF OUR LORD

I. [Luke 1:26-45](#) [Luke 2:15-18](#) [Luke 2:41-51](#) [Luke 1:46-55](#)

A. [Luke 1:26-45](#) (ESV): **26** *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. (Mary's likely still in her early teens.)* **28** *And he (Gabriel) came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"* **29** *But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (If you ever encounter an angel and he doesn't say, "Don't be afraid!" you should be very afraid!)* **31** *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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."* **(Gabriel has just told young Mary she would be the mother of the Messiah!)** **34** *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"* **35** *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth (Aunt or Cousin) in her old age has also conceived a son, (John the Baptist) and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God."* **38** *And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Mary's response here is a pretty good hint as to why God chose her!)* *And the angel departed from her. 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. (This was no ordinary baby-kick! This was a Holy Ghost prompted leap! These words also pulverize the notion that a baby in the womb is not a person until it travels down the birth canal into the light of day!)* *And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."* **(Elizabeth is one special Momma too! One day we'll get to meet them both of these extraordinary Mothers...)**

B. There's more to come. Mary breaks into song. The two pregnant Moms spend three months fellowshiping together. Mary returns to Nazareth. From Nazareth, she and Joseph travel to Bethlehem to register for the census. There, Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable because there's no room in the inn. Meanwhile shepherds are visited by angels who tell them of Jesus' birth. On to Luke 2 as the story continues...

C. [Luke 2:15-18](#) (ESV) says: **15** *When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. (Between Mary's visit with Gabriel, the prophetic word and testimony of Elizabeth, and now the story from lowly shepherds of their angelic encounter, Mary's heart is filling*

up with treasure. And there's still more to come. After Jesus' birth and circumcision eight days later, they take Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him as their firstborn and offer the appropriate sacrifice. There they encounter Simeon and Anna who each prophecy over the Child, affirming His Messianic destiny. Then star-following Magi from the East come bearing gifts, affirming her Son's kingship. All Mary can do is marvel at all that's said and treasure it all up deep within heart...

D. Luke 2:41-51 (ESV) happens 12 years later: 41 *Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42* *And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43* *And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44* *but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45* *and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. 46* *After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47* *And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. 48* *And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." 49* *And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" 50* *And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. 51* *And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.* **(Wouldn't you have loved to have sat in on Jesus' conversations with Jewish leaders when He was only twelve to hear those exchanges?! Perhaps some of these same leaders were among those who sought to have Jesus crucified two decades later. I wonder if they remembered this young Man's visit?)**

E. Mary holds a dear place in our hearts for good reason. She's the quintessential Mother who gave birth to Christ our Lord. From manger to cross to empty tomb, she was there. From the family's amber alert scare at age twelve to the 'hey-they're-outta-wine-Son' prompt at the Cana wedding, she was there. When Jesus gives her to John's loving care, there she stands. Know this: as Jesus was bleeding away on that cross for the sins of the world, for a thief beside Him and a centurion below Him, for me and you, He was also dying for the sins of His Mother. As the sky grew dark, the earth quaked, the rocks split open, there stood Mary, broken yet brave, as her sins were paid for by the Son she bore. When the nails and spear pierced her Son, a sword pierced her own soul. But when her Son rose from the dead, that sword was removed. All Mary had treasured up in her heart came to pass. Perhaps she broke out in song, an oldie but a goodie...

F. Maybe it's one she wrote; titled in Latin as, "*The Magnificat*." Better known as "*Mary's Song of Praise*." Found in Luke 1:46-55 (ESV) it goes like this: 46 *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47* *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48* *for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on 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 for those who fear Him from generation to generation. 51* *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52* *He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 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 offspring forever."*

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Luke 1:26-45 \(ESV\)](#)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And 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 bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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." **34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. **39** In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

[Luke 2:15-18 \(ESV\)](#)

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

[Luke 2:41-51 \(ESV\)](#)

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. **43** And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, **44** but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, **45** and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. **46** After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the

teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. **48** And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." **49** And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" **50** And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. **51** And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Luke 1:46-55 (ESV)

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on 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 for those who fear Him from generation to generation. **51** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52** He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **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 offspring forever."

Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment

"A Mother's Song" - T. Carter Music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk6gdX1WCd8&feature=related>

"A Mother's Prayer" - Keith & Kristyn Getty, with Moya Brennan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoy74orJu10>

What Did Mary Know? - John MacArthur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChzUVC8L28g>

Why She Gets A Day - Skit Guys

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPUyYvUv7HQ>

Thou Shalt Not Slander - Article by Greg Morse

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/thou-shalt-not-slander>

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (ESV) Hannah's Prayer

1 And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. **2** "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God. **3** Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed. **4** The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. **5** Those who were full have hired themselves

out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. **6** The LORD kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. **7** The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and he exalts. **8** He raises up the poor from the dust; He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them He has set the world. **9** "He will guard the feet of His faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. **10** The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them He will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; He will give strength to His king and exalt the horn of His anointed."

Proverbs 31:30 (ESV)

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

John 19:25-27 (NIV)

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," **27** and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

2 Timothy 1:3-14 (NIV)

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

A Mother Saves Her Infant Son in a Blizzard

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of England's greatest statesman.

- James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited*, Tyndale, 1972, p. 375.

A Mother's Sacrificial Love

On August 16, 1987, Northwest Airlines flight 225 crashed just after taking off from the Detroit airport, killing 155 people. One survived: a four-year-old from Tempe, Arizona, named Cecelia. News accounts say when rescuers found Cecelia they did not believe she had been on the plane. Investigators first assumed Cecelia had been a passenger in one of the cars on the highway onto which the airliner crashed. But when the passenger log for the flight was checked, there was Cecelia's name.

Cecelia survived because, even as her plane was falling, Cecelia's mother, Paula Chican, unbuckled her own seat belt, got down on her knees in front of her daughter, wrapped her arms and body around Cecelia, and then would not let her go.

Nothing could separate that child from her parent's love - neither tragedy nor disaster, neither the fall nor the flames that followed, neither height nor depth, neither life nor death. Such is the love of our Savior for us. He left heaven, lowered Himself to us, and covered us with the sacrifice of His own body to save us.

- Bryan Chapell, *In the Grip of Grace*.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"I cannot tell how much I owe to the prayers of my good mother. I remember her once praying, 'Now Lord, if my children go on in sin it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold on Christ and claim Him as their personal Savior.'"

Quote by Henry Ward Beecher

"What a mother sings to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"The impression that a praying mother leaves upon her children is life-long. Perhaps when you are dead and gone your prayer will be answered."

Quote by Washington Irving

"The love of a mother is never exhausted. It never changes--it never tires--it endures through all; in good repute, in bad repute, in the face of the world's condemnation, a mother's love still lives on."

Quote by Billy Graham

"Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children."

Quote by John MacArthur

"To be a mother is by no means second class. Men may have the authority in the home, but the women have the influence. The mother, more than the father, is the one who molds and shapes those little lives from day one."

Quote by Alistair Begg

"God has a very special place for mothers in His created order. They are among His most sacred and beautiful gifts to humanity."

Quote by George Washington

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

Quote by Abraham Lincoln

"No man is poor who has had a godly mother."

The Virgin Birth

The Reformation Study Bible

The doctrine of the Virgin Birth of Jesus holds that Jesus' birth was the result of a miraculous conception whereby the Virgin Mary conceived a Baby in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, without a human father. Christ's miraculous birth tells us much about His nature. That He was born of a woman demonstrates that He was indeed human and became one of us. Christ's humanity, however, was not precisely the same as our own. We are born with original sin, Christ was not.

The Virgin Birth also relates to the deity of Christ. While it is certainly possible for Deity to enter the world in a manner other than a virgin birth, the miracle of His birth points to Christ's divinity. The announcement of the angel Gabriel to Mary underscores this point. When he told Mary she would have a Son, Mary was perplexed. *"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"* (Luke 1:34).

Gabriel's answer to Mary is of decisive significance for our understanding of the Virgin Birth: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35). Moments later the angel added, *"For nothing will be impossible with God."* (Luke 1:37).

Aside from artificial insemination, which is a modern non-miraculous variation on conception, nothing is more regular or commonplace in nature than the normal casual relationship for the conception of a baby. For a woman to become pregnant who has not had sexual intercourse with a man is not only biologically extraordinary, it is clearly against the laws of nature.

But Mary's Child was not generated by Mary, herself. The "Father" of the Baby is the Holy Spirit. The language of the Spirit's coming upon Mary and "overshadowing" her echoes the descriptive account of the Holy Spirit's work in the original creation of the world. It reveals that this Baby will be a special creation with His Father being God Himself.

Those who do not believe in the Virgin Birth usually do not believe that Jesus is the true Son of God. Thus, the Virgin Birth is a watershed doctrine, separating orthodox Christians from those who do not believe in the resurrection and atonement.

- "The Virgin Birth" A Theological note in *The Reformation Study Bible*, Reformation Trust, p. 1782.

A Little Boy Forgets His Lines

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."

- *Bits and Pieces*, August, 1989.

From "Mother's Day Reflections"

By Kelly Boggs

A teenager entered the kitchen one evening while his mother was preparing dinner. As the boy sauntered through the room, he placed a slip of paper on the counter. He then took a seat at the table and waited quietly. When she found a moment to pause from her meal preparation, mom dried her hands on her apron. She picked up the paper and read what her son had written:

- * Cutting the grass: \$10.00
- * Cleaning my room all week: \$5.00
- * Running errands: \$2.00
- * Two hours of baby-sitting: \$10.00
- * Taking out the garbage: \$2.00
- * Maintaining good grades: \$5.00
- * Total owed: \$34.00

The boy studied his mother as she examined his 'bill.' She said nothing, but fished a pen from the pocket of her apron. Mom turned the paper over and began to write. In a few moments she stopped, placed the pen and paper on the counter, and continued preparing dinner.

Curious, the boy walked over and picked up his 'bill,' and read what his mother had written:

- * Nine months of pregnancy: No charge.
- * Late night feedings: No charge.
- * Diaper changes: No charge.
- * Potty training: No charge.
- * Bandaging scrapes and scratches: No charge.
- * Bedtime stories: No charge.
- * Doctor and dentist visits: No charge.

- * Taxi service: No charge.
- * Academic tutoring: No charge.
- * Seasonal cheerleading: No charge.
- * Hugs and encouragement: No charge.
- * Etiquette training: No charge.
- * Food procurement and meal preparation: No charge.
- * Clothes, toys, etc.: No charge.
- * Total owed: No charge.

When the boy looked up from the paper, his eyes were filling with tears. He took the pen from the counter, turned the paper over, and hastily scribbled on it. He handed the paper to his mom. She looked at it. Written across the 'bill' were the words *'paid in full.'* The boy hugged his mother and whispered, *'I love you.'*

- Kelly Boggs, "Mother's Day Reflections," pastors.com.

The Gifts of 3 Sons To Their Mother

Three sons, who were very successful, discussed the gifts they gave their elderly mother on Mother's day.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother."

The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes."

The third said, "I've got you, both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible, and you know she can't see very well. I sent her a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000.00 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. Mom just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

Soon thereafter, Mom mailed her letters of thanks:

She wrote the first son, "Michael, the house you built is too large. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

She wrote the second son, "Marvin, I'm nearly blind so I can't drive. I stay home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes."

"Dearest Melvin," she wrote to her third son, "You were the only son to have the good sense to know what your mother likes. That chicken was delicious!"

- Author Unknown.