

Mary



“And the angel came in unto her, and said, ‘Hail, thou

“Advent – A Monologue” that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.’ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.” Luke 1:28-30 KJV

“Blessed are you among women.” I will never forget that afternoon when I was visited by an angel. Can you imagine the feelings I was hiding when no one else knew what was happening. The angel said that I had found favor with God. I realized that with God, all things are possible. I questioned ‘How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?’ And the angel said the Holy Ghost would come over me and the Lord would overshadow me, and that the child would be called Jesus, the Son of God, and of His kingdom there would be no end. Then the angel departed. I think back and wonder how I

was willing to listen to the angel, and then I realized that the Holy Spirit was already dwelling within me.

“I wondered about Joseph. How was he to believe me? We both knew that we had kept our promise of faithfulness. But I knew that I had to go to him and tell him what had happened. I was afraid, not of Joseph because he was so gentle and kind, but I was afraid inside my body. What was happening? How was I to respond? How was Joseph to respond? Joseph told me later that he struggled. He was confused. Why should the Messianic King be born to a lowly carpenter and a peasant girl?

“When I went to him he reacted as I thought he would. I didn’t stay long. Some time after I left his shop he came to our home. Joseph said a bright light shone and he heard a voice say ‘Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.’ Then just as quickly, the light faded. He was alone once again. He came to our home and told me how he also had been visited by an angel. We prayed together in thanksgiving. It was a wonderful moment, and at the same time, a scary moment. How would this affect our families and friends? Who would believe us, two common people in the little town of Nazareth? Nothing important ever happened here.

“Why the long journey to the little town of Bethlehem, Joseph’s ancestral town.

“The streets were crowded with travelers, beggars, thieves, and soldiers. With the census, there was no place for us to stay. We were young, and very poor. The streets were noisy with the shuffle of sandals as other people hurried to find some kind of shelter, and yet others hurried to see if they could make some money from the new tourist trade that was so desperate for lodging. We had relatives there, but I was with child, and that made everything a little different.

“But the birth of Christ, the one sent as Wonderful, Counselor, The Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, would not be the end of my story. Shortly after Christ was born, we were visited by Shepherds who told us how they had been visited by angels who told them not to be afraid and suddenly there was a whole choir of angels singing ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’ The angels also told them to go to Bethlehem and they would see a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger. They came and were very kind to us.

“Later on, as we were thinking about returning to Nazareth, we were visited again by another group of people who said they had been told to follow a star,

“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”

Luke 1:38

and that star had guided them to us. They asked many people where the baby that was born King of the Jews was located. They had even gone to Herod to inquire of him where this new King was being born! They fell down and worshipped our baby Jesus and presented us with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Oh, so much happened. Another angel came and told us we had to go to Egypt. We couldn't return home. It was too dangerous.

"Joseph and I were blessed with other children, and while we realized that Jesus was destined to be the Messianic King we were sort of by ourselves. As Jesus began to preach other people realized that this truly was the Son of God. Some authorities felt threatened and thought Jesus was seeking earthly power.

"One day as He was preaching His Father's words, they arrested him, and put him on trial. They mocked him and put a crown of thorns on his head. They shouted, 'Crucify him, crucify him!'

"I was given the opportunity to be the earthly mother of the greatest person that has ever stepped foot on this earth, and that is most blessed."

References to Mary, the Mother of Christ begin in Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* Another strong reference to them together is found in John 2:1-2 when she asked him to change the water into wine at a wedding which was his first miracle.

The following lyrics were prompted by a conversation between Lowery and his mother when she said "If anyone on earth knew for sure that Jesus was virgin born Mary knew!" He said those words stuck with him for a long time and became the basis for the song.

"Mary, Did You Know?"

By Lowry and Greene (approx. 1990)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has
come to make you new?

This child that you've delivered, will
soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has
walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby, you kiss
the face of God. Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again.

The lame will leap, the dumb will
speak, the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is
heaven's perfect Lamb?

That sleeping child you're holding is
the great I am. Mary, did you know?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the love You gave to us through Mary, the peasant girl. We thank You for Mary who in blind faith carried the Christ Child so that we may all have eternal life. Help us to spread the Good News and know that You gave Your only Son for us. Amen

1. Why was Mary afraid to tell Joseph?
2. What is the significance of the Christ Child being born to a peasant virgin girl?
3. Do you wonder what people in the small town said behind the backs of the family?
4. Do you ever feel chosen for a task that you don't really want to do? Or that you don't understand? Does God call to you today?

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"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19