

## Seoul Grace Community

### Who Do You Think You Are Jesus? "Mary"

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

December 13, 2015

#### 1. Introduction

- a. The genealogy, or family "resume," of Jesus is an interesting collection of characters which Matthew highlights in the lineage of the Messiah —filled with losers, liars, cheats who would have "disqualified" Jesus as a king
  - i. Jesus' genealogy is one of graces where the "outsiders" get brought inside and welcomed into the family as Jesus arrives on Christmas morning
  - ii. Christmas is about ultimately him coming to us. Emmanuel—he came to us, not us to him!
  - iii. And Mary would have been the ultimate outsider for the job as mother to the Messiah.

#### 2. Her Selection

- a. Mary would have been an unlikely choice for this job (Young. Unmarried. Pregnant out of wedlock. Poor. From a no-name town)
  - i. She is favored? Why because of anything she did? She was a nobody.
  - ii. Did she do anything to deserve God's favor? We don't know because the text doesn't say that. It simply said she's favored. Grace given in the most likely of places.
  - iii. Favor, not merit, is given to her—not by her accomplishments (because she really had none) but simply by God's grace she is chosen
- b. And this is the way God tends to work—by taking those in low positions and welcoming them with open arms
  - i. Christmas, therefore, is the end of looking at others and judging.
  - ii. Grace means that God works through "those people"

#### 3. Her Reaction

- a. Implication of the annunciation. She thought of what kind of greeting this would be.
  - i. V. 29 said she "wondered"—literally "dialogued in her mind" She's thinking hard about it.
  - ii. She has a questioning to this encounter.
  - iii. If it's hard for you to believe in a virgin birth, it was for her as well.
  - iv. She even asks how will this be? This shows an honest doubt even as she stands face to face with an angel.
- b. But there's a limit to her doubt. It's not infinite and cynical. She says let me be a servant. She's not even allowed to name the child. It's surrendering everything.
  - i. And she is confirmed in her belief through community!
  - ii. How does this come? Through community. She has to go meet Elizabeth for it all to make sense.
  - iii. The Christian community should be one where we are able to work out our doubts, questions, and concerns with our faith (after all, Mary had them even after speaking directly to an angel)

#### 4. Her Song

- a. The Magnificat. The first Christmas carol.
  - i. What did she sing? She sings about herself but ultimately about God and his grace for the "outsiders." That he would favor her.
  - ii. She also acknowledges her need of a savior as a sinner and yet she gets favor. It's the song every Christian should sing at Christmas.
    1. What fills Mary's heart with joy is that God loves to undertake for the underdog who calls on his mercy. She mentions this three times: verse 50, "He has mercy on those who fear him"; verse 52, "He has exalted those of low degree"; verse 53, "He has filled the hungry with good things."
    2. The last thing she says. He has fulfilled his promise. Jesus was the fulfillment of this promise and Mary knew it in her head but we now know it in our lives because we've seen him come to life.
    3. The song points to someone—Mary glorifies the Lord by singing about His favor to her but this is the exact opposite of what Jesus received!

- a. “lifted up the humble”—Jesus was lifted up on a cross
  - b. “filled the hungry with good things”—Jesus gets vinegar on the cross
  - c. “he has helped his servant”—Jesus gets abandoned
4. This song of glory is a beautiful song, but it means little to you unless you see Jesus getting all the opposite treatment in order for you and me to be able to sing a song like this in praise on Christmas
- a. Christmas is when those on the spiritual outside (us—like Mary) get selected (by favor not merit) and though it’s difficult to always wrap our minds around (like Mary) He chooses us—brings us to the inside because it was Jesus who was cast outside
  - b. Jesus gets the “opposite” of everything in this song which allows us to sing this song ourselves