

“Christmas Characters – III – “Mary”

INTRODUCTION: - Mary is 1st mentioned in Mt. 1:16.

Luke 1:26-27 – They didn’t understand the “*virgin birth*” – Isa. 7:14

- “*virgin*” = ‘*almah*’ – ‘*a damsel, a young maiden, a virgin*’.

- THEY never made the connection of the mother of the Messiah being a “*virgin*”, but looking back, WE can see it.

1:26 – “*Nazareth*” was a “*despised*” city ... John 1:45-46 - No place or person is too insignificant or despised for God to use.

1:27 – “ *betrothed*” – Their engagement was legally binding.

1:28 – Gabriel appears to Mary ... 1:11-13.

- “*highly favored*” – Gabriel gives the news to Mary GRADUALLY.

- “*the Lord is with you*” – They didn’t think of a “*personal*” God

- Like Mary, God has a special plan for YOUR LIFE.

1:29 – Mary didn’t consider herself as “*special*”.

1:30 – It PAYS to be faithful to God!

1:31 – LATER ... she’s told it would be the Messiah – 1:35

- “*Jesus*” is the name “*Joshua*” in the Old Testament.

1:32 – Now, it dawns on Mary who her Son would be!

1:33 – The Kingdom of Jesus would last “*forever*”.

1:34 – Compare her statement to Zacharias – 1:18 – What’s the difference? Zacharias spoke in unbelief – 1:20

1:35 – Gabriel tells her HOW God would do it.

- God takes care of the details ... we are just to OBEY.

- The “*sin nature*” is inherited from our FATHER.

- The “*innocent*” will die for the “*guilty*” – 1 Peter 3:18

1:37 – God had already done the “*impossible*” – 1:36

1:38 – Gabriel got the answer he was looking for.

- “*maidservant*” = ‘*slave-girl*’ ... sold out to God!

- Mary couldn’t imagine what God had in store for her.

- She would always remember the words of Gabriel (1:37) and her commitment to God (1:38).

CONCLUSION:

- Mary had a CHOICE concerning the “*virgin birth*”, and we have a CHOICE concerning the “*new birth*”.

- REPENT and TRUST Jesus, to receive His “*gift*” for you.