

What God Has Done!

Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, Nevada • December 13, 2020
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Mary's Story

A. The Messenger (vv. 26-27)

Luke 1:26–27, NASB - ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God... ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

B. The Message (w. 28-33)

Luke 1:31–33, NASB -³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

C. The Mystery (v. 34)

Luke 1:34, NASB - ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

D. The Method (v. 35)

Luke 1:35, NASB -³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

E. The Miracle (vv. 36-37)

Luke 1:36–37, NASB - ³⁶ "And behold, even your relative <u>Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.</u> ³⁷ "For nothing will be impossible with God."

F. The Ministry (v. 38)

Luke 1:38, NASB - ³⁸ And Mary said, "<u>Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word</u>." And the angel departed from her.

Mary's Song

1. Look what God has done for Mary. (w. 46-49)

- The Lord saved her (v. 47)
- The Lord chose her (v. 48)
- The Lord 'highly favored'* her (v. 48; cf., 1 Cor. 1:26-28)

*"Highly Favored" [**Gk**: χαριτόω (charitóō)]

"Char-is" (is 'Grace,' lit., unmerited favor) • "ah-too" (lit., poured upon) [This word is also used in Eph. 1:4-6; "...His glorious grace has been poured out on us...."]

2. Look what God has done for Us. (w. 50-53)

- He included all who fear Him to receive His mercy (v. 50)
- Helpless (v. 51); Humble (v. 52); and Hungry (v. 53).

3. Look what God has done for Israel. (w. 54-55)

- \bullet "He will save His people from their sins" $\,$ (v. 21)
- He will show them mercy (v. 54)
- He will keep His covenant-promise with His Children (v. 55)

Discovering Christmas Truths

- A. Following God will not always be easy.
- B. Be more concerned with what God thinks, than what people think.
- C. In your toughest moments, seek to honor and glorify God.
- D. Faithfulness, surrender and obedience will pay spiritual dividends.
- E. Yearn for God to use you in ways you could never have dreamed.
- F. "Nothing is impossible with God!"