

Bible Biographies

Sunday Night Auditorium Class

Responding to God's Call: **Mary**

Introduction

Consider: you're a nice young lady in a small city looking forward to a nice wedding to the man whom you love more than life itself. Your dreams for the future are quite modest, in keeping with the only lifestyle you have ever known: you'll be happy to find a nice little house, perhaps with the proverbial "little white picket fence," and live a quiet life with your husband and family. You have no lofty aspirations nor do you expect to be chosen for any grand undertaking.

Along comes an angel. He's a major league angel, though you don't know it at the time. All you know is that he tells you that you are favored by God. You can scarcely disguise your bewilderment as you wonder what the strange visitor could mean. If it was the 21st century you might think you just won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. But there are no magazines to subscribe to in first century Palestine, and you couldn't afford it if there were. You, are perhaps, even more puzzled after he explains *how* you are favored.

God chose one of the most courageous young ladies who ever lived to carry out a major task and endure incredible pain in the process. Yet, she truly is "blessed among women," as Elizabeth said (Luke 1:42), because she responded to God's call to serve.

Read Luke 1-2; Matthew 1:18-25

Questions

1. Who was the angel and what was his message?
 2. What was Mary's first reaction?
 3. What did Mary say after the angel explained the process to her? Why is her response so remarkable?
 4. What was Elizabeth's verdict on Mary? What question did she ask Mary and why?
 5. Mary's "song" is recorded in Luke 1:46-55. Discuss the features that impress you most.
 6. Explain Joseph's situation in this. What was he going to do, according to Matthew's account (Mt. 1:18ff)?
 7. What did Simeon mean when he said to Mary and Joseph "and a sword will pierce even your own soul" (Luke 2:35)?
 8. Luke said "His mother treasured all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51). What things?
- [Thought question] What it is about motherhood that causes women to "treasure things" in their hearts?