

CHRISTMAS 2006

How To Have A Mary Christmas

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Luke 1:26-38, NIV – (26) *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, (27) to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (28) The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." (29) Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. (30) But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. (31) You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (34) "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" (35) The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (36) Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. (37) For nothing is impossible with God." (38) "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

- There would have been no Christmas miracle, without Mary.
- There will be no Christmas miracle this year, without Mary people.

HOW TO HAVE A MARY CHRISTMAS – BE A MARY PERSON

1. Decide Who You Are Going To Trust – Yourself Or God

- Mary said, "*How can this be ... since I am a virgin.*"
- The angel said, "*Nothing is impossible with God.*"

- It's not about your in-ability, it's about God's ability
- The more you doubt your own ability, the better off you are ... because then you've got to put your trust in God alone
- No matter what God says, just believe that if God said it, he can, and will, make it happen

- God did not choose Mary because of her great courage, but because of her great trust

2. Decide Who You Are Going To Belong To – Yourself Or God

- Mary said, "*I am the Lord's servant.*"

- When you come to the point where you truly decide that you belong to God,
- That makes life so much simpler, and so much easier
- If you are really the Lord's servant, you don't have to worry about all the decisions you have to face, just ask God, and do what He says
- If you are the Lord's servant, you don't have to worry about your future, just expect that since He is responsible for you, He will take care of you
- If you are the Lord's servant, you don't have to worry about your life, because God must take care of you

- God did not choose Mary because she was a great leader, but because she was a great servant

3. Decide Who You Are Going To Obey – Yourself Or God

- Mary said, "*May it be to me as you have said.*"

- What a wonderful response! What a faith-filled response!
- "May it be to me, as you have said."
- In other words, "Do to me, what you have said"
- "Use me, any way you want to"
- "I will cooperate with anything you want from me"

- Big miracles start with little steps of obedience
- Little doors of obedience open the way for big miracles

- God did not choose Mary because she had great wisdom, but great obedience

HAVE YOURSELF A MARY, MARY CHRISTMAS!

- Do you want to have a Mary Christmas this year? ... A miraculous Christmas? ... Then be a Mary person

- Simply decide to trust God, not yourself
- Simply decide to belong to God, not yourself
- Simply decide to obey God, not yourself
- And then simply watch, as God turns a normal Christmas, into a miraculous Christmas ... a Mary Christmas