

Mary: The Angel Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth

Advent is a time to reflect on and ponder the miracle of Jesus' virgin birth. And this story begins with the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and announcing Jesus' coming birth, an event the Church calls the Annunciation. Studying Mary's role and response to Gabriel offers us valuable reminders for our faith and helps us better understand our place in God's story. As we continue to prepare our hearts for Christmas let's learn from Mary's strong example of faith—what it means to wholly trust God and be obedient to his will even if we don't fully understand it or have all the details.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How do you typically react when something seems impossible or difficult to believe? Do you think you typically respond with acceptance? Skepticism? Denial?
- What does it mean to yield to God?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Mary: The Angel Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth](#)

READ [Luke 1:1-4, 26-56](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee marvel at how often God surprises people in the Bible by doing or choosing the unexpected. How has God surprised you like this in your life?
- When God calls on you to do something, are you able to say yes to God like Mary did? Do you find it difficult to yield to God if you don't fully understand or if all your questions aren't answered? Why or why not? Where do you think you need growth in your spiritual life in order to be able to fully yield to God like Mary did?
- In segment 3, Darrell observes that when Mary rejoices she both: 1) recognizes her lowly state, and 2) recognizes the impact of what God will do through her. Pick something that you participate in, for example, volunteering, parenting, working, caring, etc. Spend time considering and recognizing who you are, how God can work through you in a particular role, and how God can use you to impact your community or the world.
- Later in segment 3, Scott compares Mary's song to a preview of coming attractions. Think about Jesus' ministry as you reread Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55. What events from Jesus' ministry come to mind as you read her song? Where in Jesus' ministry do you see that "his mercy extends," that he "performed mighty deeds," that he "brought down rulers...lifted the humble," that he "filled the hungry," and so on?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 5:1-12](#), [Psalm 3](#), [2 Corinthians 4:1-9](#)

CONCLUSION

As an exercise of preparing your heart to celebrate Jesus' birth and to help prepare your heart for his second coming, write a song similar to Mary's song. What would you write, say, or communicate to reflect what God has done for and through you and how that previews what is to come?

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