

LISTENER GUIDE

Mary's Secret to Embracing Life-Shaking Circumstances

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '10)

As we dig into the story of Mary we learn what it means to be a woman with a _____, _____, and _____ heart.

1. A Jewish marriage/betrothal is reminiscent of our relationship with Christ.

- As followers of Christ Jesus, we have been bought with a great price. He is the _____; we (the Church) are His _____.
- We are to be _____, _____, and _____ to the Bridegroom.
- The Last Supper (Communion) is a hint of betrothal benediction. He is the Bridegroom; the _____ has been _____.
- Jesus is going to prepare a place for us, His _____.
- Jesus will _____ for us—He is coming again!

2. Mary had a heart of obedience.

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”
(Luke 1:38)

Mary calls herself a doula, a _____.

- She empties herself completely of “her” and allows the _____ to completely fill her. That’s what a handmaiden does—_____ without question.

No wonder she is described as “blessed.” She is prepared to say, “Yes!”

What would you or I have said in that set of circumstances?

Would we be willing to go where God calls? Or would we be hesitant?

3. Mary and Zechariah have different responses.

- Zechariah is in the temple; Mary is in the small town of Galilee.
- Zechariah is a priest; Mary is a commoner.
- Zechariah is a mature, older male; Mary is a young girl.
- Zechariah responds with unbelief and a challenge; Mary responds with trust and praise.
- Zechariah is silenced; Mary is called blessed.

God is so not impressed with our _____, _____, or our credentials. He is interested in our _____.

4. Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55)

Mary was most likely _____, but that doesn't mean she didn't know the _____.

Old Testament references: Covenant God, prophets, Psalms, the Law
Mary sings her confidence in praise because God is powerful, sovereign, mighty, merciful, worthy, gracious, savior, Lord. She worships Him because she knows who He is.

5. Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart (Luke 2:19).

- Moments of pondering: where we quietly take the _____ that we've learned and received, and we put them in our _____.
- In those dark, trying, alone moments we can take out one of the treasures we've been pondering and remember it again.

Jesus was Mary's son, but He was also her _____. She watched Him die for her sins. She was humble, obedient, submissive, and she changed history.

What could God do with a woman today who is willing to be a servant? A woman today who is willing to say, "God, give me your desires for my heart. Lord, be first always in my life. Father, not my will but Thine."

God has the right to our life. We have been bought with a price. We are His bride. We are His handmaiden.

Mary with her humble, obedient, submissive heart said "yes," and so should we.

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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As we dig into the story of Mary we learn what it means to be a woman with a humble, submissive, and obedient heart.

1. A Jewish marriage/betrothal is reminiscent of our relationship with Christ.

- As followers of Christ Jesus, we have been bought with a great price. He is the Bridegroom; we (the Church) are His Bride.
- We are to be consecrated, sanctified, and dedicated to the Bridegroom.
- The Last Supper (Communion) is a hint of betrothal benediction. He is the Bridegroom; the covenant has been sealed.
- Jesus is going to prepare a place for us, His beloved.
- Jesus will return for us—He is coming again!

2. Mary had a heart of obedience.

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”
(Luke 1:38)

Mary calls herself a doula, a handmaiden.

- She empties herself completely of “her” and allows the Holy Spirit to completely fill her. That’s what a handmaiden does—obeys without question.

No wonder she is described as “blessed.” She is prepared to say, “Yes!”

What would you or I have said in that set of circumstances?

Would we be willing to go where God calls? Or would we be hesitant?

3. Mary and Zechariah have different responses.

- Zechariah is in the temple; Mary is in the small town of Galilee.
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- Zechariah is silenced; Mary is called blessed.

God is so not impressed with our station in life, or our credentials. He is interested in our heart.

4. Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55)

Mary was most likely illiterate, but that doesn't mean she didn't know the Word of God.

Old Testament references: Covenant God, prophets, Psalms, the Law

Mary sings her confidence in praise because God is powerful, sovereign, mighty, merciful, worthy, gracious, savior, Lord. She worships Him because she knows who He is.

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Jesus was Mary's son, but He was also her Savior. She watched Him die for her sins. She was humble, obedient, submissive, and she changed history.

What could God do with a woman today who is willing to be a servant? A woman today who is willing to say, "God, give me your desires for my heart. Lord, be first always in my life. Father, not my will but Thine."

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