

WHAT ABOUT MARY?

THE MOST FAMOUS WOMAN IN SCRIPTURE

- The Bible is kind toward women
 1. Women are listed as leaders and instrumental in God's plan
 2. Women were listed as part of Jesus' lineage
 3. Jesus was particularly honoring of women - countercultural for His day
- Mary, the mother of Jesus (**Luke 1:46-49 NKJV**)
 1. Her song of praise to God - called the Magnificat
 2. Mary magnifies God first - acknowledging what God had done

MARY'S INITIAL ENCOUNTER WITH GOD (Luke 1:26-38 NKJV)

- She was uncomfortable with Gabriel's greeting
 1. She was not scared at his presence
 2. She did not see herself the way God called her
- She was a woman with faith
 1. She did not balk at the proclamation that she would have a child
 2. Gabriel answered her question and encouraged her with Elizabeth's situation
 3. Her answer of, let it be to me according to your word, is a statement of faith
- She was a woman who identified as a servant of God
 1. A place of humility
 2. Willing to submit to God's plan - even though there was a cost involved
- She was a woman of courage
 1. Her pregnancy would raise questions - without logical answers
 2. Gabriel did not promise her that God would handle Joseph

LEARNING FROM MARY'S EXAMPLE

- Level up your identity
 1. There is a higher place of identity than race, nationality, political affiliation - spiritual identity
 2. Identify with being connected to God (**Acts 27:23 NLT**)
- Acknowledge your capacity for faith and courage (**1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NLT**)
 1. Inspired words from God - but not beyond the ability of the people
 2. Adopt Mary's catchphrase - let it be to me according to Your word, Lord!
- Become comfortable with what God says about you in His word
 1. He has good things to say about you because of your connection to Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:30-31 NLT**)
 2. Now it's about living up to His words about you
 3. You can say you are blessed and favored, and God is with you