

Great Women of the Bible



Mary, the Mother of Jesus



Background

This week, our series, *Great Women of the Bible*, focuses on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary is a compelling character... Can you imagine how wonderful of a person she must have been to have God select her to bring His son into the World? He could have chosen any woman, but He selected Mary for this great and honorable task. Mary certainly must have been a young woman who the Lord was pleased with. In her story, we will see sacrifice, humility, service, motherhood, pain and promise. Let's take a look at the life of Mary, the mother of the greatest person to ever walk the face of the Earth...

A Great Sacrifice

- Luke 1: 26-38
 - In this passage, we find that a virgin named Mary was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. Mary is said to be **highly favored** by the Lord. The angel makes it clear that Mary has been chosen for the ultimate responsibility. Mary is to bare the Son of God and call Him by the name, Jesus.
 - Watch Mary's reaction. Understandably, she is somewhat afraid. She has heard from an angel, she is a virgin who is about to be pregnant, and she is pledged to be married. How is she to her soon-to-be husband and to her people that she is pregnant? Mary reacts to all of this pressure by saying in Verse 38, "I am the Lord's servant...May it be to me as you have said."
 - **Wow!** Look at Mary's attitude. Though she doesn't know what will become of her life because of this predicament she is in, Mary still stands up for God! She is willing to **sacrifice** for Him!

Life Lesson:
When you are **highly favored** by
God, expect Him to
call upon you...

When called upon, we should all respond by
being willing to serve the Lord...even when
the task He has for us is difficult.

Jesus is Born

- Luke 2: 4-7
 - Though she is pregnant (with a child that is not biologically his) and they are not yet married, Joseph stands by his future wife, Mary. It is important to note that in biblical times, it was especially dishonorable for an unmarried woman to carry a child. It was also dishonorable for Joseph to be with a woman in this circumstance...yet he stood by Mary anyway.
 - Mary gives birth to Jesus and she places her son (God's Son) in a manger.
 - Mary has sacrificed herself to perform a mighty work for God.

Mary Gives Birth to Jesus



Life Lesson:
Standing for God in a tough
situation requires a great amount
of **sacrifice**.

Joseph and Mary **stand for God** even when it
is not easy. Both of their reputations are on
the line, but they **sacrifice** it all because they
love God.

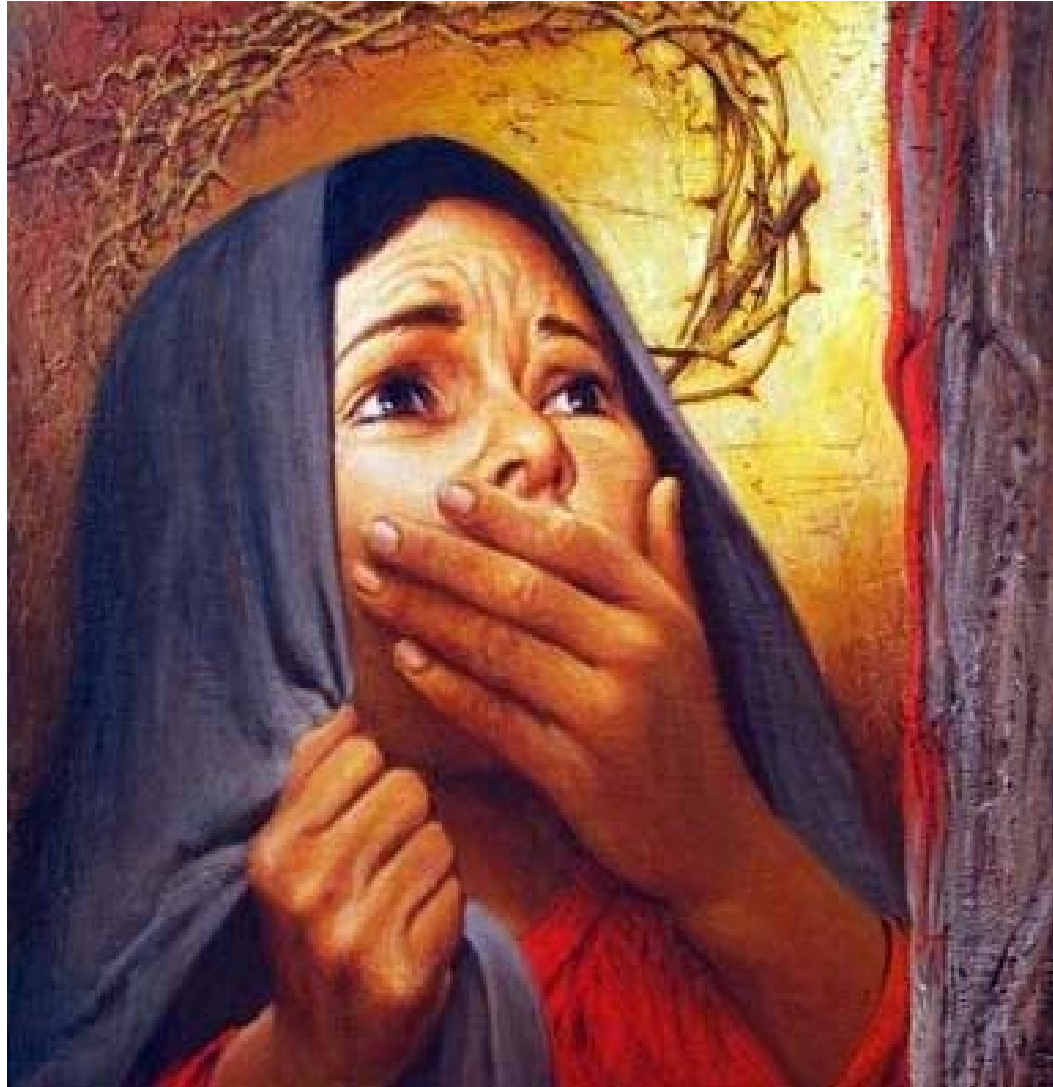
Mary's Song of Praise

- Luke 1: 46-55
 - Mary rejoices and praises God
 - She is humble
 - She acknowledges how good God has been to her
 - The Lord is merciful
 - He brings down the proud and uplifts the humble
 - He provides for the less fortunate

Jesus Lives

- Luke 2: 33-35
 - Joseph and Mary are made aware that their child will be **Great**. They are also forewarned that they will endure some pain as a result of raising him.
- Luke 2: 39-40
 - Joseph and Mary do everything just as they have been asked to do by God. They are **obedient**. Jesus grows up, becomes strong and wise. He is becoming ready to fulfill His Father's mission of teaching and preaching the Gospel and ultimately saving the World from sin.

Mary at the Cross of Jesus



A Mother's Pain and the Love of a Son

- John 19: 25-27
 - Scripture makes it clear that Mary, the mother of Jesus stands near the cross of her Son. **She sees His pain. She feels His agony.** Mary's grief must have been immense. It must have been the toughest thing she ever faced...watching her Son be tortured to death...and yet again, **she still stands.** Mary was an amazing, Godly woman of faith and courage.
 - As Jesus is dying, He thinks not of himself, but of his dear mother. He tells a disciple whom he loved to be like a son to His mother and Jesus tells His mother to be like a mother to his disciple. In effect, Jesus blesses Mary with another son and blesses His disciple with another mother. **How wonderful is the love of Jesus...**

Mary's Legacy

- The Lord calls on those who He highly favors
- Be humble. Be a servant for God
- We should have an attitude of willingness to sacrifice for Him
- Stand for God even when the situation is tough
- Sometimes we will experience pain because of our commitment to Christ
- Mary's greatest legacy—Her Son, Jesus Christ!