



Incarnation 2012 Mary & the Light

Mary did not find the Light—the Light found her. It might be said that the Light has found everyone but not everyone knows it—nor really wants it. The account of Mary is a short metaphor of the nature of salvation and God’s gift of Light to the world.

(Col 1:16-17; 20-27)

A. Finding the Light vv. 26-33 *Salvation*

1. **The setting:** The Jews were seriously looking for the Messiah. It was an expectation that created confusion and some false messiahs. Mary and Joseph were ‘engaged’ which at that time was almost the same thing as being married.
2. **Highly favored:** v. 28 How could Mary be highly favored? Was there something unique or special about her? Was she sinless? Was there a reason that God chose her to be the ‘blessed’ mother of the Messiah?
3. **Why would God favor you?** There is no reason that He should—you can do nothing to earn His favor! He simply loved you! *John 3:16; Eph 2:8*

B. Power of the Light vv. 34-38 *Filled with the Spirit*

1. **The Spirit’s presence and power:** It is the Holy Spirit that hovered over the creation (Gen 1:1-3) and Who is also the agent of the Incarnation and the new birth in Christ.
2. **Mary and Elizabeth:** Mary was young while Elizabeth was old—both were barren (never had children). One was a physical miracle the other a spiritual miracle.
3. **Nothing impossible:** v. 37 If God can create all things then there is nothing that God cannot do. What ‘impossible’ things has God done in your life?
4. **According to Your Word:** v. 38 What a wonderful and insightful response from Mary...not according to what I think or choose but according to the Word of God.

C. Sharing the Light vv. 39-45 *Let your light shine*

1. **Chasing the Light:** Some people spend their life ‘chasing’ the light—their dreams and what they want.
2. **Sharing the Light:** When something exciting happens the first thing we want to do is share the news. Since Gabriel mentioned her cousin Elizabeth that was a good place to start. And when we find Christ as savior, sharing that good news with our family is usually one of the first things we do.
3. **When you bring Jesus:** v. 41 Often when we start to share the Lord with people there is an immediate openness to receive. That’s because the Father is drawing all to Him and that they might be saved. *John 6:44; II Pet 3:9*
4. **Blessed belief:** v. 45 How wonderful that Mary believed the Word of the Lord. How blessed is everyone who believes in the Saving Grace of Jesus.

Luke 1:26-45 (NKJV)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” **29** But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” **35** And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37** For with God nothing will be impossible.” **38** Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. **45** Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.