



Mary's Christmas
Be Open—Part One
Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-24

Objective Sentence: *Everyone can make a difference in their world by following in Mary and Joseph's footsteps.*

Introduction: *John MacArthur:* To throw out the virgin birth is to reject Christ's deity and the accuracy and authority of the Scriptures.... No issue is more important than the virgin birth to our understanding of who Jesus is. If we deny that Jesus is God, we have denied the very essence of Christianity. Everything else the Bible teaches about Christ hinges on the truth we celebrate at Christmas—that Jesus is God in human flesh. The virgin birth is as crucial as the resurrection in substantiating His deity. It is not an optional truth. Anyone who rejects Christ's deity rejects Christ absolutely.... **Isaiah 7:14** The Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel **Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Micah 5:2** But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting

Read Luke 1:26-38

#1. Be Open (Lk. 1: 26-(38) *let it be according to your word*)

A. Britannica: *The obedience and openness of one young woman forever changed the course of human history. Mary's humility & obedience to the message of God have made her an example for all ages of believers. Pastor Dan:* *One person can make a*

difference; two people can make a big difference and a team of people can make a world of difference.

1. **Obedience** (*Luke 1:38* *I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*)
 - a. *Henry Ward Beecher:* The strength and happiness of a man or woman consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going that way too.
 - b. *Isaiah 1:18-19* Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword";
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
 - c. *Philippians 2:13* For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. *Pastor Dan:* As God worked in Mary making Jesus real in her life; so he will work in you to make Him a reality in your life.
 - d. *Oswald Chambers:* Only your relationship to the Lord really matters, maintain that at all costs and God will fulfill His purpose through your life. One individual life may be of priceless value to God's purposes, and yours may be that life.
 - e. *Luke 1:37* Nothing is impossible with God.
 - f. *Romans 8:11-17* If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are servants—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the children of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a Spirit that makes fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Holy Spirit when He adopted you as His very own children. Now we call Him Father; Our Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present age are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us.
 - g. *1 Timothy 3:16* Great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh *Pastor Dan:* The Holy Spirit inhabits our bodies and will manifest Himself in and through us (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20* Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.
 - h. *Tertullian:* From the Holy Spirit came Spirit, and from God—came God; as light is candled from light this ray glided down into a virgin and in her womb ... God was born as man. This flesh was built up by the Spirit, was nourished, grew up, spoke, taught, worked, and was Christ." He offered His life for ours.
 - i. *Pastor Dan:* There is greatness in you!!! *Ephesians 3:20*

k. **John 15:14-17** Mary and Joseph were chosen to bring Christ to their world and you and I have been chosen to bring Christ to our world. Mary said yes to God's purpose and plan, which he announced through the angel Gabriel.

2. **Openness** (**Luke 1:38** Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.)

a. *Pastor Dan:* Mary changed the world by mastering the things which make a difference in life—she was open to God's will for her life in spite of the impossibility of her situation. There was no precedence for what the Lord was going to do through her. She simply submitted herself to God and placed her faith in Him.

b. **Philippians 3:10-12** That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection [in, through, to me], and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death [through self denial and crucifixion], so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already been made perfect; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me.

c. *Charles Hodge:* The ultimate ground of faith and knowledge is confidence in God. (**Heb. 11:6**)

d. *Author Unknown:* Great things often start out small, and only open minds can perceive their inception.

e. *Francois Fenelon:* It is only by fidelity in little things that a true and constant love of God can be distinguished from a passing fervor of spirit.

f. *R. C. Sproul:* The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in.

g. *Pastor Dan:* Mary's physical experience has become our spiritual experience through the abiding presence of God's Spirit in our lives. **Colossians 1:26-27 NLT**
²⁶This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. ²⁷For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit)

h. *Pastor Dan:* The presence of Holy Spirit in us guarantees that the word impossibility is removed from our vocabulary (**John 15:4, 7**)

Closing and Invitation: Corrie ten Boom: Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The one requirement is that you and I believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.