

Mary (Luke 1:26- 38)
What Child Is This? sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 12.24.17

BIG IDEA: Mary saw in Jesus a new life to embrace expectantly. Do you?

The Perfect Christmas

- Mary's expectations about life radically changed the day that angel appeared to her in a little village in Galilee. Despite the ridicule and her fiancée almost walking out on her, there was nothing that first Christmas that could go wrong to take that away from her.
- She embraced this new life she held in her arms, this new life He would lead her into.

Mary's Life-Altering Moment (Luke 1:26-37; Hebrews 1:3; Luke 1:31-33; Luke 2:33-38; Matthew 28:20; Luke 1:46-48)

- Mary realized Jesus would be no ordinary baby to raise! She saw all that was transpiring, a new life to embrace expectantly.
- Not just the new life she held in her arms, but a new life for herself, a new life beyond what she ever would have dreamed possible.
- Mary and Jesus both lived lives of great consequence that included great pain. Jesus hung on a cross and a sword pierced His side, as Mary watched her son finish what He was born to do.
- A life --- a life we didn't expect --- but a life that, with Jesus, we can embrace expectantly, knowing that Emmanuel --- God --- is with us through it all.
- Many of us, as we embrace a life (a new life) in Christ, will face obstacles that have the ability to derail and defeat us, if we allow them to. We will all experience deep pain at times in life. In these moments, we have to reset our expectations in order to experience the fuller story of our lives.

MY NEXT STEP: *In what way can you embrace a deeper, closer relationship with God? What expectations do you need to reset in your heart in order to do so?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread Luke 1:26-56 and 2:1-40. Imagine these moments in the life of Mary, and how she must have seen Jesus in each of these early moments of her life. Read slowly and carefully, considering what grabs your attention and why.
2. Now read John 19:1-37, as Mary experiences her hopes, her dreams dashed as she sees Jesus suffer and die for the sins of the world. Imagine what she could have been thinking about in verses 25-27, when Jesus speaks to her one last time. How does this story speak to changes of hopes and expectations in your own life? How have you, how do you typically, adjust to them? Are there any such places in your life where you are still stuck? What is God asking of you?
3. In light of these things, read Hebrews 1. To what (or whom) is Jesus compared here? What is the difference between "the past" (v1) and "these last days" (v2)? Of all these qualities of Jesus, which do you value the most in your life?
4. Next week in our series called *What Child Is This?*, we will look at the life of Joseph and learn how he experienced Jesus. How do you think he saw or experienced Jesus as he came to understand who Jesus really was? Share your thoughts and experiences with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Sermon Notes" card at www.myGrace.church/notes. He would love to know what you are thinking.