

THE BEAUTIFUL FAITH OF MARY

Luke 1:23-38

INTRODUCTION

Mary is called the following by the Roman Catholic Church:
Queen of Heaven, Mother of God

The Roman Catholic Church also teaches: Immaculate Conception and Perpetual Virginity

We don't want to err in our reaction to the errors of almost deification of Mary, the idolatrous worship of Mary: Mariolatry.

To borrow from the vernacular, we don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

→ **Mary**, you see, is truly, truly an amazingly remarkable young lady. She is a role model and example for all of us to follow, women and men.

READ Luke 1:26-38

Proposition: 3 Components of the beautiful saving faith of **Mary** that have to do with your faith:

- Your Intellect
- Your Emotion
- Your Will

3 Words ... 3 Latin words – they are helpful because the Latin words have a richer, fuller meaning

Noticia - Notification AND Understanding – your intellect

Assensus - Assent, Agreement – your emotion

Fiducia - Trust and Action – your will

So That: We will better understand this holistic beautiful picture of saving faith

Background – we read in vv. 26-33. This was our initial introduction of Mary and amazing announcement of the coming King whom she will conceive, bear, and name
→ this was the *Noticia*

1st Component of the Beautiful Saving Faith of **Mary** we see
in our text today, ...

I. Assensus **Luke 1:34**

Point – We actually see both *Noticia* and *Assensus*. Gabriel has notified her, and she understands. And she accepts.

Proof – “³⁴And Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’”

“**How can this be?**” – **Mary** uses the future tense – better translated as “How will this be?” In other words, she believes.

Mary’s question is a question of understanding and acceptance (*Assensus*). She clearly understands Gabriel has told her she will conceive and give birth to a son while still a virgin.

Her question is a question of acceptance and assent; not a question of doubt and suspicion like **Zacharias**.

Zacharias asks, “How will I know this?” (**1:18**).

Mary asks, “**How can this be?**” → The difference is huge.

Zacharias says, “I’m not sure I believe. How will I know? Give me more evidence.”

Mary says, “I believe. **How can this be?**”

I want to address **2 Errors** regarding **the Virginity of Mary** ...

1. **Mary** wasn’t really a virgin when Jesus was born.
2. **Mary** remained a virgin after Jesus was born.

Error #1 – **Mary** wasn’t really a virgin when Jesus was born.
The **Virgin Birth (Conception)**

Point – It is absolutely essential to biblical understanding and theology. To deny or question the virgin birth is to attack the very nature of Jesus Christ. We will see this more.

Now, everybody knew that Mary was pregnant before she was married to Joseph.

The two options are either virgin birth or illegitimate birth.

Consider the affirming testimony of the mockers and the haters – even in biblical times.

John 8:41 – “‘You are doing the deeds of your father.’ They said to Him, ‘We were not born of fornication;’”

Mark 6:3 – “‘Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary,” (not son of Joseph)

John 9:27 – “We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.”

The very testimony of the people who were against Christ testified that either it was an illegitimate birth outside of marriage or it was indeed what God had prophesized back through Isaiah.

One silly and arrogant assault is spawned from evolution. The thinking goes like this → “These ancient and simple people weren’t as smart and advanced as us ...”

Illustration – **C.S. Lewis** relates an incident that happened to him one Christmas. A skeptical friend of his, a fellow faculty member, was in his office at Oxford University. Outside of his window in the college quad, there were carolers singing Christmas hymns. Some of the carols were about the virgin birth. They could hear the words.

Lewis’ friend smiled condescendingly and said, “Aren’t you glad we know better than that?”

C.S. Lewis responded, “Pardon me? What’s your point?”

His friend said, “Well . . . aren’t you glad we know that virgins don’t have babies?”

C.S. Lewis paused for a moment and said, “Don’t you think they knew that too? That is precisely the point.”

Error #2 – **Mary** remained a virgin after Jesus was born. The Roman Catholic Church calls this the **Perpetual Virginity of Mary**

The New Testament knows absolutely nothing of this, just the opposite. We know that Joseph and Mary had other children after Jesus.

Mark 6:3 – “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?”

Gal 1:19 – “James, the Lord’s brother.”

Jude 1:1 – “Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James”

We also see in the language used by Matthew and Luke:

Matt 1:25 – Joseph “kept Mary a virgin until she gave birth to [Jesus]”

Luke 2:7 – “she gave birth to her first-born son” – the point being that Mary had more children

The Bible drives a stake in Roman Catholic thinking of the perpetual virginity of Mary.

Application – God never teaches that perpetual virginity is a holier state than being married and becoming a mother (or Father).

God does teach in 1 Cor 7 that singleness (virginity) is a <u>gift to be accepted</u> , not a <u>state to be sought</u> .

2nd Component of the Beautiful Saving Faith of **Mary** we see
in our text today, back to ...

II. *Noticia* Luke 1:35-37

Point – Progressive Revelation (Notification). A sequence here:

- A. **New Revelation**
- B. **Accompanying Miracle**
- C. **Old Revelation**

A. **New Revelation**

1:35

Point – Progressive Revelation – Clarity

Proof – “^{35a}**And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you,’**”

This phrase is used sparingly in the New Testament:

Luke 1:35; 11:22; 21:26;

Acts 1:8; 8:24; 13:40; 14:19; Eph 2:7; James 5:1

Acts 1:8 – “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

“^{35b}**and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;”**

In much the same way the Holy Spirit hovered over creation in **Gen 1:2**, the **power of the most high will overshadow** Mary

“^{35c}**and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.**”

People have said for millennia, and will continue to say until Christ comes again, with sometimes seemingly good intentions, that the Incarnation does not depend on the virgin birth. But.....

Application – “**for that reason**” – shows the virgin birth is necessary for the incarnation.

This is conception without union, without insemination. Mary contributed the “X” chromosome and the “Y” chromosome was supernaturally created.

This is what we would call the seed of the **Hypostatic Union**
→ The union of the deity of Christ and the humanity of Christ is without **confusion**, without **change**, without **division**, and without **separation**.

Here's a quiz from 1 John:

Application

- How many gods? **1 God.**
- How many Persons in the Godhead? **3 Persons.**
- How many Persons is the Son? **1 Person.**
- How many Natures does the Son have? **2 Natures.**

Note: Jesus in His humanity, was not sinless because He had no earthly father. He was sinless because this is how He was created in the womb.

Point – In His humanity, He was in need of training. But He was never in need of correction.

Illustration – When He was a toddler, He probably touched something or took something He shouldn't have, but when He was corrected, He never touched it again, He put it back.

B. Accompanying Miracle **1:36**

Point – Sign, Evidence → Purpose of Miracles

Proof – “³⁶**And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.**”

“**relative**” – Mary was a descendant of David through her father so she is related to Elizabeth through her mother, who was in Aaron's line.

Illustration – Notice **Mary** doesn't ask for evidence, but God gives her evidence anyway – Elizabeth. **Zacharias** asked for evidence. God gave him evidence in the form of muteness.

God gave him evidence and chastisement as the discipline of a loving Father.

Application – Beloved, God does not mind when we ask probing questions, when we ask them with childlike faith in the heart.

C. Old Revelation

1:37

Point – God gives Mary the visible and miraculous demonstration of Elizabeth. But more important than these, He gives her the Scriptural and theological foundation.

Remember **1 John** – “What you have had from the beginning,” “an old commandment,” “the word which you heard” → Teaching!

Proof – ^{“37}**For nothing will be impossible with God.**’

From the Greek word – ἀδυνατέω – power motif in Luke – God has the power to do everything He is saying

Illustration – Direct reference to the theological truth in God’s miraculous movement in the Old Testament

Gen 18:14 – “Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Application – **J.C. Ryle** – *“Faith never rests so calmly and peacefully as when it lays its head on the pillow of God’s omnipotence!”*

Application – New revelation and miracles are unique and not immediately applicable to you and me. Old revelation is universal (for believers) and immediately applicable.

Application → This is the undergirding and underlying foundation.

We now come to where the rubber meets the road. We come to the line of demarcation ... between a **professed** faith and a

possessed faith, the *Shibboleth* between **dead** faith and **saving** faith.

3rd Component of the Beautiful Saving Faith of **Mary** we see in our text today, back to ...

III. *Fiducia* Luke 1:38

Understanding and agreement are essential, but they are not sufficient.

Point – “*You believe in Jesus?? Great. That qualifies you to be a demon*” (R.C. Sproul)

→ **James 2:19** – “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.”

Proof – “^{38a}**And Mary said, ‘Behold, the bondslave of the Lord;’**”

Mary is standing in the tradition of **Hannah** ...

→ **1 Sam 1:11** – “she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life’

1 Sam 1:18 – “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.”

Application – **Mary** doesn’t say, “Behold, the Mother of God.” She doesn’t say, “Behold, the Queen of Heaven.”

→ **Mary** says “**Behold, the bondslave of the Lord**”

Proof – “^{38b}**be it done to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.**”

Mary believes the word she received from God by the angel.

Now, Elizabeth was concerned about telling people she was pregnant so she hid for five months. Think of what Mary is

signing up to...she can't hide that she is pregnant and she is betrothed, not yet fully married. What will people say??

Suffering public disgrace and great cost. In Nazareth, her **baby bump** will be her **scarlet letter**.

The two options at that time was death or divorce.

Can you imagine?!?!?! What is Mary going to tell Joseph??
What will Joseph think or say??

→ Turn to: **Matt 1:18-20** ... Joseph goes to sleep ... to sleep ... perchance to dream?

Mary is humble. Mary is trusting.

But many of God's most powerful blessings are great burdens.

Point – Obedience to the Word of God is the essence of true living faith.

True *Noticia* believing God, true *Assensus* believing the Word will result in *Fiducia*, obedience to the Word.

James 1:22 – “Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

1 John 3:10 – “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”

Application – In the same way, we need to obey God's commands for the right reason ... from the inside out ... from the heart.

Application - There is freedom in obedience to the word of God. There is no craving bondage.

God is showing us that He exalts the weak and lowly. This is what God does.

Psa 138:6 – “For though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly.”

Matt 5:3 –“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

CONCLUSION

Gal 4:4-5 – “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

He who was a Son by nature became sin so that we who were sin by nature could become adopted sons.