
the

FOLLOWERS

December 7, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Dave Mitchell

Mary, Mother of Jesus The Heart of Submission in a Jesus Follower
"Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

From Mary, we learn:

When I submit to the impossible tasks, God will provide. Luke 1:26-38

- God's will can be perplexing. *"she was very perplexed....How can this be..."*
- God's will may create fear. *"Do not be afraid, Mary..."*
- God's will reveals His grace to me. *"You have found favor with God..."*
- God's will allows me to help fulfill His divine purposes. *"you shall name Him Jesus..."*
- God's will is not impossible with His help. *"for nothing will be impossible with God."*

Therefore, may it be done to me according to Your Word. Remain trusting.

When I submit in times of confusion and frustration, Jesus has a plan I will learn from later.
Luke 2:41-52; John 2:1-12

- His plan may astonish me at times. *"they were astonished"* Luke 2:48
astonished=
- His plan may cause painful anxiety in me. *"I have been anxiously looking for You..."* Luke 2:48
- His plan may frustrate me. *"why have you treated us this way..."* Luke 2:48
- I may not fully understand what He is doing. *"But they did not understand..."* Luke 2:50

Nevertheless, may it be done to me according to Your Word. Remain teachable.

"...and His mother treasured all these things in her heart..." Luke 2:51

When I submit in great pain and sacrifice, Jesus offers compassion as He fulfills a greater purpose for our lives. John 19:25-30

"Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' From that hour the disciple took her into his own household..." John 19:25-27

Therefore, may it be done to me according to Your Word. Remain faithful.

My submission to our Lord will eventually bring great joy and fulfillment. Acts 1:9, 14

"And after He (Jesus) had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight....These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

Digging Deeper:

We have many reasons to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was likely a young teen age girl when the angel announced that she would give birth to a baby named Jesus. Her heart of submission in the face of an impossible task is remarkable and a great model for us. Unfortunately, some have gone too far in honoring Mary. In some circles she is considered the source of our redemption, an advocate or mediator to God for our prayer life as many pray to her by name, and some even believe she is perpetually a virgin. None of those beliefs are true. She did marry Joseph, had many more children, (Matthew 13:55-56) and was a common person in need of forgiveness of her sins like you and me. But her faithful submission to God is how we should live our lives. Let's learn from her.

LifeGroup Discussion:

One of Mary's most powerful lines in Scripture is her response to the impossible task of giving birth to Jesus.

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Read the following verses. How should you respond to these Words of God, or what do they ask you to do? Will you say the same words of Mary, "be it done to me according to your word" as you submit to the request of these verses?

John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* **Do you believe in Jesus as the one to save you from your sins?**

Ephesians 4:29 - *"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."*

Ephesians 4:31-32 - *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

Ephesians 5:15-17 - *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

Ephesians 5:20-21 - *"always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."*

Philippians 4:4-6 - *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

Colossians 2:6-7 - *"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."*

Colossians 3:1-4 - *"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."*

Colossians 3:16-17 - *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Philippians 2:3-8 - *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"*

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup for encouragement and accountability in your growth.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. **Use Calvary's new discipleship study called 'Following Jesus' to grow in true dependence on Jesus as our living Lord.** Following Jesus, with editions for both students and leaders, are available in Calvary's Corner Bookstore. calvarylife.org/grow