

42-01-02-The Discipleship of Mary

Mary, motherhood, discipleship

Luke 1:38

The true disciple is a person who puts God first.

INTRODUCTION:

–Luke 1:38 contains the heart of what I want to share in this Mother’s Day message. It’s the response Mary made, when the angel Gabriel told her she would be pregnant with Jesus: “*I am the Lord’s servant,*” *Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.*

– We need to have a *biblical view* of Mary. Because some exalted her beyond what Scripture teaches and others have fail to honor her for her role in redemption history and for the example her life teaches.

–Mary was a *devoted mother*, handpicked by God to be the “*theotokos*” (the *God-bearer*). But her life teaches more than the traits of a *virtuous motherhood*. Her devotion teaches us about *discipleship*, showing us that **HOM.idea**. *Her story portrays...*

I. The Cost of Discipleship– Luke 14:33, “*any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*”

A. *What was Mary willing to give up to be the mother of Christ?*

1. Her status as a virgin? (Yet now, her virginity is synonymous with her name: she put God first, and He put her first).
2. Her engagement to Joseph? (Yet, in Joseph, she found a husband who cared for her deeply and who obeyed God courageously.)
3. Her public reputation? (She traded the slavery of “*what will people think?*” for the freedom of “*what does God want?*”

B. *Why did Mary put the Lord first?* (just as every disciple must)

1. She knew and was true to herself: “*I am the Lord’s servant.*”
 - a. A *servant* is someone *devoted* to the will of another (or others), often *disregarding* their own will and personal interests.
 - b. Christians must remember who we are. (If we get caught up in popularity and self-interest, we can get *spiritual amnesia!*)
2. She knew the freedom and power of submitting to God’s Word: “*May it be to me as you have said.*” **[Don Moen]** wrote the song “Be It Unto Me” to capture this truth: “Be it unto me / according to Your Word; / according to your promises / I can stand secure. / Carve upon my heart / the truth that sets me free; / according to **Your Word**, O Lord, / be it unto me.]

TRANS: Mary was a true disciple because **she put God first**. She had a disciple's heart from the beginning. But *her discipleship* was like ours: it had its *ups and downs*. Those who follow God, as Mary did, won't always see the bigger picture. Temptations to doubt can also threaten our faith. *Such times can bring us to...*

II. The Crossroads of Discipleship

- A. We begin to see the bigger picture of discipleship by letting go of our *small ambitions*. At the wedding at Cana, there was...
1. The urgency of the insignificant (Mary: "They have no more wine")
 2. Christ gently rebuked her: "Dear woman, why do you involve me?"
 3. Jesus kept—and wants us to keep—a God-centered view of our time and energy: "My time has not yet come." (Mary got the point...)
 4. She relinquished control to Christ: "Do whatever he tells you."
- B. Our trust in Jesus should override the doubts others express about Him (even those of *relatives*)— Mark 3:20-21, Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." and v.31-35, Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (Mothers are to be honored, but not above honoring God.)
1. We might be tempted to follow skeptics (but, the best rational argument of unbelief is rooted in a limited view of reality.)
 2. "Who **are** my mother and my brothers?" (This wasn't a *gentle rebuke!*)
 3. Jesus gave the true test of our relationship with Him in these words: "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."
 - a. Family ties cannot be the measure of loyalty to divine truth. (Putting God first was Christ's practice, and it's to be ours.)
 - b. Jesus loved His mother, and Scripture twice calls her "blessed... among women," Yet Jesus exalted a higher blessedness, when His mother was being praised by another woman— Luke.11:27-28, As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

TRANS: Mary did pass the test of being a **true disciple**. Her decision to put God first took her all the way with Him to the cross itself— exactly where we will be led, if we are to experience, as she did...

III. The Commitment of Discipleship

- A. Where was Mary on the day of Pentecost?— Acts 1:14, They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (She modeled a disciple's commitment to gather with other believers, and to give herself to prayer.)
- B. Mary was included in what happened in the upper room— Acts 2:4, All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Twice she modeled a yielding of herself to the Holy Spirit's full control: God doesn't fill unwilling vessels!)
- C. What began at Pentecost surely continued the rest of Mary's life— [in Acts 2:18, Peter quoted from the prophet Joel], "Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Mary modeled a Spirit-filled Christian life, yielding her lips to "prophesy," which means to speak forth God's message.)

CONCLUSION:

—**The true disciple is a person who puts God first**. Mary was a *model mother*, because she paid the cost of true discipleship. At the crossroads of her faith, she passed the test of doubt's temptation at the foot of the Cross. She was committed to discipleship, yielding *her life and lips* to the Holy Spirit's full control.

—Mary's story resolutely points to Her Son as *the only Savior*, and her discipleship, in putting God first, as Jesus Himself did, is the model of a true Christian life. If we would follow Mary's example, we must obey the same instruction she gave to the servants at the wedding in Cana of Galilee: "Do whatever he tells you."