

Blessed Virgin Mary

(Sermon Notes)

By Warren Zehrung

12/17/2016

Second Title: **A Little Maid**

I've never heard a sermon about the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, in the Church of God. In today's sermon we will draw spiritual lessons from the life of Mary. Over the years within the Church of God a practice grew up that caused us to shy away from the mention of Mary. We have not had much regard for Mary – that needs to be rectified.

Quite possibly the near total avoidance of the topic of Mary was because of the false beliefs of the Catholics who worship her and have wrongly elevated Mary, body and soul, to be the Queen of Heaven.

Catholics celebrate – around August 15 every year – Mary's assumption into heaven. The feast day of the "Assumption of Mary" celebrates the Catholic belief that God assumed Mary into Heaven following her death. It is a big celebration in Europe and South America.

The Catholics wrongly worship and pray to Mary – for advantage. Mary advises Jesus – who cannot refuse her – because He is obedient to his mother. Combating false religion John wrote:

John 3:13 **No one** has ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

As a Catholic I wore a silver medal with the word "Immaculata" on it. It represented the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception – meaning Mary was completely sinless her entire life. That too, denies the Bible truth:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Brethren, we know that Mary does not occupy some resurrected status, as Roman Catholicism would have us believe.

Some of you may not remember what the climate was like in Worldwide. I want to share a part of an email I received this morning in response to today's Countdown – "Blessed Virgin Mary."

"I want to share something that happened about twenty years ago in WWCG.

"The Pastor's wife started a women's group for having discussions and developing our abilities as women.

At one meeting she posed the question, "What woman, alive or dead, do you admire most?"

Just about everyone mentioned their mother or grandma or some historical figure like Eleanor Roosevelt.

When it came my turn, I said "Mary, the mother of Jesus".

You could have heard a pin drop.

There were even a few **loud sighs**.

The director smiled, and asked me to explain..."

I wanted to share some of this email with you because it shows that the Church brethren had very little knowledge about Mary.

What we want to know is what the Bible says about Mary—because all **Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2Timothy 3:16).

We hurt ourselves every time we ignore God's word. Neglecting what the Bible has to say about Mary causes us to miss out on spiritually valuable lessons gleaned from the interactions that took place between Jesus and His mother.

We will look into that in today's sermon. Let's look into the Scriptures to see what God says about Mary.

The very first Messianic Prophecy in the Bible made reference to "the woman," Mary, and her "seed," Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15). Other Messianic Prophecies give much more detail about the **virgin birth**. We are told that God Himself would work a mighty miracle:

Isaiah 7:14 "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a **virgin shall conceive**, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." We find that very miracle fulfilled in Matthew:

Matthew 1:21 And [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet [Isaiah], saying,

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**.

Specific Purpose Statement: Today we will see that Jesus held His mother in high esteem, and God has high regard for all women.

Biblical women are shown to have a good **devotion** to God. Let's look at the example of **a little maid** in Israel – her faith in God and His prophet Elisha.

A little maid – that would be a good second title to today's sermon after – Blessed Virgin Mary.

2Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a **leper**.

2Kings 5:2 The Syrians had gone out by [raiding parties], and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel **a little maid**; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

That teen – a young lady of faith won Naaman and his wife's complete respect and trust, because she kept her Godly faith, priorities and values – even as a slave in a heathen, foreign land.

That nameless little maid had **compassion** on her abductor – who had taken her away from her family and made her a slave.

1Peter 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

'Acceptable' is the Greek '*charis*' – graciousness – thankworthy to God.

Can you see the Godliness in her attitude? The little Maid was not forgotten by God – in fact she was used mightily by God.

2Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! For he would [heal] him of his leprosy.

It would have been so easy for her to say "I'm so hurt – disappointed – God let me down – I'm separated from my family and loved ones but she didn't have that kind of shallow Faith.

The little maid's conduct was so exemplary that Naaman acted on her word. Study the entire story.

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Luke 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Why wrath – because they lacked that kind of faith – the faith of Naaman – a heathen!

Mary was another **little maid of Israel** who God used mightily. We will see how God works behind the scene – long before it is realized by anyone – what is going on. We see some of the honor and respect that God has for women. After all, God created women – as help mates – meaning that somehow – man was incomplete without woman.

God is accomplishing His Plan – in many ways and through people – we would never expect. The Scriptures give examples of this... God has tremendous respect for those whom the world would bypass – He achieves His will in the most unexpected ways.

Luke was not one of the 12 apostles. He worked closely with Paul. Luke was both a physician and a disciple of Paul.

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as **many** have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Luke 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Theophilus may have funded Luke's work. I suspect that Luke spoke directly to Mary – because there are so many excellent details in Luke's account.

Luke 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Here we see one of the Very Few GOOD marriages in the Bible – yet something is missing...

Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain **priest** named Zachariah, of the course of Abijah [remember that] and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

“Elisabeth” there is much meaning in lineage and names. {Aaron's wife's name was also the equivalent of “Elisabeth.” Just so you know where we are going – Elisabeth is to be the Mother of John the Baptist. – And we are looking at God's honor and respect of Motherhood.

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

WOW! Without God's Holy Spirit – unconverted. Righteous – could that be said of any of us? God had called them in a special way.

Luke 1:7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, {no babies} and they both were now **well stricken in years**.

Luke uses the word stricken – like it knocks you down when you get old. I would guess that they were 65 or 70 years old. Being Barren was a **blemish** on a perfect reputation – it said – somehow she was incomplete – being Barren carried a **shame** – who will take care of her and protect her when her husband is gone?

Zachariah had **prayed** for years for a son – but now that Elisabeth had passed menopause – his hope for a son was **waning**.

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Psalms 127:5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be **ashamed**, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Psalm 113:9 He makes the barren woman to keep house, and to be a **joyful** mother of children . Praise ye the LORD.

It goes without saying that mothers take care of their babies – but God designed the process so that children **reciprocate** by HONORING and caring for their elderly parents.

Was Elizabeth barren because of sin, or diet, or genetics, disease, or old age? NO! She was like the man blind from birth that Jesus restored his sight to – It WAS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind.

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

The man was blind – for the purpose that Jesus could heal him for all to see. (the Biblical **pun** is intended – He was blind – that all might be able to see.)

Here is an interesting question... At what point did God intervene in the lives of Zachariah and Elizabeth? The Answer is: Always – even before their own births. Doesn't it make you wonder what God is up to right now? God is working behind the scene – today – in the same way – to bring about His Plan and His will. If we think we are masters of our own fate ... we have something to learn in that area.

Is God setting up some big situations – as we speak? I think so. There are lots of Biblical examples of God working behind the scenes.

In the same way, Elizabeth was barren – childless – for a time – so that God could work a timely miracle in her. Brethren, Do we stop and give God the Glory for the great works He has done and is doing?

If Elizabeth's womb had not been closed – John the Baptist's work would have been off by 20 years – maybe 40 years.

Luke 1:8 And it came to pass, that while he [Zachariah] executed the priest's office before God in the order of his [two week] course, {5 of the course of Abijah}

1Chronicles 24:3 And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their [24] offices in their service.

1Chronicles 24:10 ...the **eighth (lot) to Abijah,**

1Chronicles 24:5 Thus were they divided by lot,

Rotation course of temple service / time of year / birth of Christ...

Luke 1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, **his lot** was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Luke 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the time of incense.

I find that incredible – we do not see that kind of **devotion** anywhere in God's Church today! Whole multitude – these are devoted people – yet Old Testament times – in the proper worship of God – before Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:11 And there appeared unto [Zachariah] an angel [Gabriel] of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. [Notice the detail – “the right side”]

Luke 1:12 And when Zachariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. [Big things are happening!]

Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zachariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, [a boy – this is before conception!] and thou shall call his name **John**. [Not little Zach]

Luke 1:14 And thou shalt have **joy** and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

Gabriel tells Zachariah that John will be set apart by a Nazirite vow.

Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Gabriel tells Zachariah that John will be set apart by a Nazirite vow. Zachariah, being very familiar with the other Nazirites of the Bible, recognized that John was being set apart for a very special Godly purpose. A special vow.

Numbers 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to **vow a vow of a Nazirite**, to separate themselves unto the LORD:

Numbers 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of **wine**, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

John didn't drink wine or eat raisins.

Sampson – first mentioned Nazirite

Judges 13:2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his **wife was barren**, and bore not.

Zachariah certainly recognized the parallels.

Judges 13:3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, **thou art barren**, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. [Not conceived yet]

Judges 13:4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

Judges 13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazirite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Luke 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. [but he **didn't** have a devil – it was a Nazirite vow – per the Angel Gabriel's instructions.

What did John the Baptist eat? Crickets and grasshoppers. It was an austere and rigorous diet for John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Samuel – 2nd Nazirite actually mentioned in Scripture.

The name "Samuel" means "Asked of God." "Petitioned of God."

1Samuel 1:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

1Samuel 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had **shut up her womb**. [for a reason]

1Samuel 1:6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

This was recorded in scripture for Zachariah to see and take note.

1Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Don't forget that it is God who also opens wombs. God is deeply involved here.

1Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast **asked of him**. [Hebrew = Samuel]

1Samuel 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

1Samuel 1:20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because **I have asked him** of the LORD.

There were so many parallels for Zachariah to compare his situation to.

Genesis 11:30 But **Sarai was barren**; she had no child.

Hard lessons – still plaguing the world. Abraham **got ahead** of God's plan – we have the Arab problem today.

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bore him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is a hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah **were old and well stricken in age**; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

Genesis 18:13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

Luke 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he [John the Baptist] turn to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:17 And he [John the Baptist] shall go before him [Jesus Christ] in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Still having reservations, doubting Zachariah says "let's see some **proof**."

Luke 1:18 And Zachariah said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife well stricken in years.

Luke 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, [no greater messenger] that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

"How about if your tongue sticks to the roof of your mouth – would that be **proof** enough?"

Luke 1:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, [unable to speak]and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believed not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

All that multitude outside said, “What is going on in there – what is taking so long?” “It never took this long to do incense before!”

Luke 1:21 And the people waited for Zachariah, and marveled that he tarried so long in the temple.

Luke 1:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for **he beckoned** unto them, and remained speechless.

Beckoned = waved his arms and signaled in sign language as best he could.

Luke 1:23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration [course] were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

He hasn't been home with Elizabeth yet.

Luke 1:24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Luke 1:25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to **take away my reproach** among men. [Elizabeth's shame has been removed]

Elizabeth – had her life satisfied – now she had a reason for her existence.

Proverbs 30:15 ... There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:

Proverbs 30:16 The grave; and the **barren womb**; the earth that is not filled with water; [drought] and the fire that saith not, It is enough . [all consuming fire].

Elizabeth felt all her life that she was unfulfilled, worthless, shamed – useless – without a child. After all God says that Children are a blessing from Him.

When the Nation of Israel was going into the Promised Land...

Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

God is not impressed with big numbers.

Deuteronomy 7:8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers:

Deuteronomy 7:13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also **bless the fruit of thy womb**, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

That is referring to the Two-Fold blessings of then—and now.

Deuteronomy 7:14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or **female barren** among you, or among your cattle.

About 200 years ago – there was a population explosion among the English speaking Israelites. Percentage wise today – Israelitish America is shrinking compared to foreign nationalities.

Blessings and cursings

Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:4 Blessed shall be the **fruit of thy body**, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Back to Mary

Luke 1:26 And in the **sixth month** [of Elisabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

This coincides with Mary's conception of Jesus. The Bible is very precise.

Luke's Gospel shows unequivocally that Jesus Christ was born nowhere near that pagan Roman winter solstice festival of late December. It takes 9 months to have a baby. We can figure out that Jesus was born on or near the Feast of Trumpets.

It is God who says that Mary was a **virgin**.

...The angel Gabriel was sent from God:

Luke 1:27 To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the **virgin's name was Mary**.

The Title of today's sermon, **Blessed Virgin Mary**, comes from these two verses:

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: **blessed art thou among women**.

Luke 1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Technicality Mary asked? HOW? Not **doubt** as in Zachariah's case!!!

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, **How** shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the **Son of God**.

Not the son of the **Holy Spirit** – as the unlearned teach, but the **Son of God**. Gabriel conveyed the immediacy of conception – Mary became pregnant then -- right away.

Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. [end of second – trimester]

Mary said to herself – “I've got to see my cousin Elizabeth –

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Mary agrees – says, “YES”

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah;

Luke 1:40 And entered into the house of Zachariah, and saluted Elisabeth.

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the baby **leapt** in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with Holy Spirit:

God is totally involved here. Mary is the MOST blessed of all women – this saying was inspired by God.

Luke 1:42 And [Elisabeth] spoke out with a **loud** voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed **is the fruit of thy womb**.

Elizabeth – realizing what was taking place – respects and honors her much younger cousin – because of what God is working in Mary.

Luke 1:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the **baby leapt** in my womb for **joy**.

Emotion in the womb! at 6 months! Abortion is murder.

Luke 1:45 And blessed is she that believed for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

Luke 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Mary was just another, “no-body.” God honors women – even women of **no status**, standing, or exalted reputation.

Luke 1:48 For he hath regarded the **low estate** of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me **blessed**.

Sadly, in the Worldwide Church of God Mary was seldom called blessed! She is the **Blessed Virgin Mary** – that’s Scriptural!

Luke 1:49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Luke 1:50 And his mercy is on them that {revere } him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:51 He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Luke 1:52 He hath put down the **mighty** from their seats, and **exalted** them of low degree. [Mary exalted]

Luke 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Luke 1:54 He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

Luke 1:55 As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

Luke 1:56 And Mary abode with [Elisabeth] about three months, { till the time of John’s birth } and returned to her own house. [to a lot of wagging tongues]

Luke 1:57 Now Elisabeth’s full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

Luke 1:58 And her neighbors and her cousins heard how the Lord had showed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

Luk 1:59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him **Zachariah**, after the name of his father.

Luke 1:60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called **John**.

Luke 1:61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

Luk 1:62 And they made signs to his father [**Zachariah**], how he would have him named.

Luk 1:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is **John**. And they marveled all.

Luke 1:64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, and praised God.

Luke 1:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judea.

Luk 1:66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 1:67 And his father Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He has visited and redeemed his people,

Luke 1:69 And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

Luke 1:70 As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

Luke 1:71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

Luke 1:72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

Luke 1:73 The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,

Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

What a blessing we have!

Luk 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Zachariah knew what John's job would be.

Luke 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation [of the savior] unto his people by the remission of their sins,

Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

Luk 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.

Jesus Honored and respected His Mother – enough to start His public ministry early to help her out of a difficult situation: There was a big wedding in Cana of Galilee between two large families, and Mary was asked to be the events-coordinator/hostess over the liquid refreshments and libations. A lot of people attended – many **more** than anticipated – and there was not enough wine to go around. Let's look at it in John's account:

John 2:1 And the third day [Jesus had just been baptized] there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

John 2:3 And when they lacked enough wine, [Mary] the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine.

John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.

That translation comes across pretty rough in today's language – but Jesus was not being disrespectful to His mother at all: He was saying, “Yes Ma'am. Do you want me to get involved? Let's analyze this situation for a moment: Mary simply said to Jesus, “They have no wine.”

There was the greatest mutual respect between Mary and Jesus—and Jesus and Mary. They loved each other. She was asking Jesus to get involved – but not necessarily to **work a miracle**. He had never worked a miracle yet! But Mary knew that Jesus had the where-with-all to find a source of wine.

Jesus, on the other hand was considering how to solve the problem of no wine. Purchase it, – or work His first miracle? That would bring on a lot of attention.

John 2:4 ... my time to begin my His public ministry is not yet come.

But to honor His mother and **trust** in His heavenly Father – Jesus went ahead with His **first miracle**. **Jesus had the faith that His Father had a hand in this.**

John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he says unto you, do it.

John 2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

John 2:7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

John 2:8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

John 2:9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

John 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Jesus initiated His public ministry a few days before He planned to do so, by the miracle of changing water into wine in order to honor a request by His mother, Mary. Jesus' first miracle brought immediate results – all in God's will.

John 2:11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Luke 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be **about thirty years of age**.

Jesus' **Compassion** for Mothers

Luke 7:12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Luke 7:14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

Luke 7:15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Jesus' **Last thoughts** on the cross were **for His Mother Mary**.

Jesus loved, honored and respected Mary. She carried Him, she gave birth to Him, she was at His crucifixion when He died, and she was with the apostles in the upper room shortly before Pentecost.

After Jesus ascended up into heaven, the apostles, Mary, and others went up into an upper room in Jerusalem – just before Pentecost: The crucifixion:

John 19:25 Now there stood by the **cross of Jesus his mother**, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

John 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

John became Mary's lawful son – he was in effect adopted by Mary – to have the responsibility of protecting and caring for Mary in her old age – now that Jesus would not be there.

These Scriptures, and many more, show the high regard Jesus had for His mother Mary.

End: Blessed Virgin Mary