



MARY

A HANDMAIDEN OF THE LORD

"My Soul Glorifies the Lord"

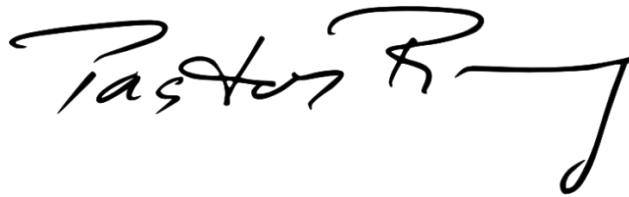
DR. RANDY BRODHAGEN

Mary

A Handmaiden Of The Lord

by

Rev. RANDY BRODHAGEN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor R" followed by a stylized flourish.

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PART ONE

“My Soul Glorifies the Lord”

INTRODUCTION

We are together in the Spirit of God. We are with Him, and He is with us. May that never change. Together forever.

Let us do everything to maintain the unity of the Spirit. (Ephesians 4) We are growing into the unity of the faith, but it hasn't quite happened in the Body of Christ. The Lord is working on that, making people one in the faith. There is only one faith, one Church, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

The Lord has begun a New Reformation, and He is making changes in the Body of Christ, bringing it back to the way the early church was, getting rid of false teachings and the things that have crept into belief systems.

THE LORD CAME TO SAVE US

The Lord taught us how to love. It all started with His loving us. He came Himself to save us, and He made a body, and the only way you can get a human being's physical body is through having a mother. As the Lord revealed to Joseph, "This woman (Mary) you are betrothed to hasn't been unfaithful to you." The Lord Himself came through young Mary, a precious woman of God, just like all mothers are precious in God's sight. If they are forsaken, the Lord Himself becomes their husband. How wonderful that the Lord doesn't want anybody without relationship. Relationship is the

most important thing to Him. That is why Jesus, God Himself, came to save us.

So, this little baby Jesus was actually God Almighty, except that He put aside His place as the Creator to come and save us. How much the Lord loved us! He humbled Himself and became a man.

The bloodline is not determined through the woman, it is determined through the man. In this case, it wasn't just man, it was the Lord God Himself. This establishes that the Lord God is Jesus' Dad, and Mary was His mother.

You might note that it has to do with honor. "Honor your father and your mother, that it may go well with you, and you will live long on the face of the earth." (The fifth Commandment)

PURPOSES AND PLANS

Are you thankful that you are alive here today? Wherever you are in the world, you are here, you are alive, you are a light for Jesus wherever you go, and you have a purpose. You have a reason. It is not just that you were born to exist. The Lord has a plan and a purpose for every one of us.

The Lord had a plan for precious Mary. She had a calling just like you and I have a calling. Moses had a calling, Isaiah had a calling, Jeremiah, Noah, the disciples, and the people throughout the Bible had callings. There was a purpose the Lord had for everyone's life, and He had His plan for Jesus to be born. He is the Lord, high and lifted up. He had to make a change to save us. He had to become like us. The way someone like us can be born is through intercourse. Jesus had to be born. He didn't just osmose and appear. No, there had to be a male and a female, and in this case the Lord God was the male, and Mary was the female virgin. Jesus came through a supernatural conception, the only begotten of the Father. That means He is the only One that was born of the Father God.

It is very important that we get this. What is said about Mary is that she was full of grace. John, chapter one, says that you and I who are born again of God's Spirit are full of God's grace and truth. There has to be a birthing. In our case, a spiritual birthing has to happen. We were born physically, thank God for mom and dad, and God had us born to them for His purpose. There is a plan, a reason, and a purpose in everything the Lord does, and it is good. Babies are a gift from the Lord, but they need a mom to physically carry them. We were physically born, but now we can be spiritually born in the Lord, born again of His Spirit, born of heaven, citizens of heaven.

Look how it works. Mary's purpose and calling from the Lord was shown in Luke, chapter one.

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David."

It is important that Joseph was of the line of David. The Lord had given a promise to King David hundreds of years before that his descendants would never end. In Jesus the throne of David will never end. See, David had a calling and purpose too.

Mary was a pure, undefiled Jewish young woman, and Joseph was pledged to her. This is what the Lord says about her:

"The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you'." (Luke 1:28)

Everyone is very special in God's sight. He loves every one and wants every one to have all his blessings.

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.” Amazingly, Gabriel the angel suddenly appeared, but prior to this Gabriel had appeared to Zachariah, John the Baptist’s dad. Remember, he didn’t believe the word from the angel because Elizabeth was old and barren. (Now the Lord knows how to do the impossible!) Her womb was barren and it was impossible for her to have a child. The Lord made a woman without child to be with child. John the Baptist was in God’s plan to prepare the way for Jesus’ coming.

The Lord always has a good plan and purpose in everything He does, and He uses common people like you and me. The Lord loves people and cares about them. He does only good.

It was said about Him that He gives and He takes away. Job said it in his ignorance, but Job didn’t know, and he didn’t have understanding. He represents the church of today in many respects. However, he came to know who the Lord really is, and he repented and changed his thinking. He came to know the Lord is a good God who loved him and cared about him. He totally changed Job’s life, and Job changed other’s lives through the Spirit of God working in him and through him. He got rid of that fear for his life and for the lives of his children.

Abraham’s son Isaac had a fear also. The Lord had a plan, but it couldn’t happen until Isaac got rid of the fear for his life. Then he sowed seed, and the Lord blessed it one hundred fold. The Bible is full of the Lord’s love and interaction with people.

The child was to be named Jesus, for *“He shall save His people from their sins.”*

Nobody is to worship Jesus the man. This is very important. In John 16, Jesus said so, but now He is not a man anymore. He is not walking around. History shows He did save us, His resurrection from the dead sealed

it, and His ascension put Him back to His throne on high. Now we worship the Lamb of God. Worthy is the Lamb: all power, dominion, and power is His alone. To Him be all the glory in the church. His Spirit is working in us which is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, and is working in us. So we are able to do what the Lord has given us to do.

Mary was greatly troubled and amazed. She had just encountered a heavenly being, Gabriel, the messenger angel of God. (But we are not to worship angels either. That is what the angels always say when people encounter them because people want to worship them. They say, "No, don't worship me; worship the Lord.")

So what happened?

"But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.'" The will of God was happening! It was going to change her whole life and everyone else's life from that time on.

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus." (Luke 1:31)

Jesus means *"He shall save His people from their sins."* (Their separation from the Lord.) He is able to save everybody, and deliver them from the devil, from the selfishness and pride of man, and from the world's evil influence because the devil has corrupted everything out there. Jesus brought in the Light of God. The Light of Heaven.

In the book of Hebrews it says that Jesus the man is our brother, the first born of the resurrection. But now He has taken His place as Lord of lords and King of kings.

The angel said, *"You are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the*

throne of His father David.” Again, we see Joseph’s line, David’s line. Jesus coming in.

“And He will reign over Jacob’s descendant forever; his kingdom will never end.”

MARY’S RESPONSE

The big question was,

“‘How will this be?’ Mary asked the angel, *‘since I am a virgin?’* ” She had to be a virgin. It is important because the Father Himself was her husband to conceive this child. There was no sin going on.

When Adam and Eve fell away from the Lord, their spirits died. They became separated from the Lord. Sin means, “To shoot the arrow, miss the mark, and fall short.” *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Man’s nature was no longer God’s nature (which they had at the creation) because Adam and Eve followed the devil. Any children who are born now need to be born again because they still have the sin nature, the separated nature. Jesus said, *“Except you be born again of water and of the spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* It is only through the new birth, receiving Jesus into your heart as Lord and Savior.

The spiritual overtakes the physical and man becomes a living being again. It is like the Lord breathes life into us again through faith in Jesus. We receive the life of heaven.

Mary had asked, *“How will this be?”* meaning there had to be intercourse to have a baby.

“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you so the Holy One to be born will

be called the Son of God'." (*"The child to be born will be called holy"* is another version.)

Understand, His seed when Jesus was born was from His Father in Heaven, and it is holy, it is perfect. So His nature, born of God, was perfect, not fallen like Adam's line. Paul wrote that Jesus was the second Adam, meaning mankind was starting over through Jesus. God's seed in Jesus was perfect. He had a mind and a body as well because that is what a human being consists of.

When you are born again, your spirit that was dead comes alive to the Lord. Then your spirit mind needs to be renewed by the Word of God. The body needs to be brought in line. Someday when we go to the Lord, or at the final trumpet when Jesus comes back, we will be changed, and we will not have this body. We will have a new spiritual body forever like Jesus had when he rose from the dead showed Himself to the disciples.

Mary had a purpose from heaven, from God, but she was just like all other women. God chose her to do this. The Lord has chosen you to do something too, and you need to find out what it is. Ask Him, He will show you His plan for your life.

I keep getting sent back because I am not finished with what I have been given. I have had all kinds of things happen, but nothing can stop me because I am an example of how the Lord loves and care for His own. He takes care of us and sees us through whatever we face. Even if we die, we go to Paradise with the Lord. That has been my desire since I was a little fellow and heard about it. The Lord has loved and covered me. I am covered with His love.

Mary was highly favored amongst women because she was to carry Jesus. The Father's seed is in Jesus, the Lord be praised. Joseph was on board when the angel of the Lord explained this to him. How amazing that

the Lord always covers everything. He explained the working to Joseph. Mary and Joseph were in awe about the whole thing.

“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who is said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Look at Mary’s response to the angel of the Lord. It thrills my heart when I see something like that happen. It was part of the reason the Lord had great favor on her. She really loved the Lord. Mothers who love the Lord love their children and bring Jesus to their children. Mothers love their children to varying degrees, but a truly blessed one will bring those children in and teach them by word and by example the ways of the Lord. Because love has to be developed. People aren’t born with it.

Look at this: *“Mary said, ‘May it be to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.”* (Luke 1:38) Lord, may your Word be to each of us and to all of us as you have said, for you are no respecter of persons. What He does for one, He will do for all. The promise is good for all of God’s children, but some people just believe more than others. They search it out more than others. They find it, they believe it, and they act on it.

Can you imagine, the disciples were all called to the Lord for a purpose, just like Mary was called for a purpose. What was her purpose? To be the mother of Jesus. He had to have a mom to be a man just like us, but He did the will of the Father perfectly. He didn’t sin, for He had to be the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty to ransom us from the devil. When Adam and Eve followed the devil and not the Lord, they fell away, totally separated from God, never to return. Like the devil, they were in that kind of condition.

The devil will never humble himself and come back to the Lord. The Lord would forgive him if he did. Absolutely, that is the Lord’s nature. But the devil will not because he is opposed to God. It is what has happened to all

people. We were in opposition to the Lord. *"While we were yet enemies of God, Christ died for us, the Godly for the ungodly."* He didn't have to do it. He could have left us the way we were, but the love of the Father who is all love came to save us. He chose to come.

How many mothers and fathers have sacrificed for their children so they could have blessings? Standing against the world is the biggest sacrifice. We didn't die on a cross, Jesus already saved us, but every time we do what the Lord says the world stands in opposition. Jesus says, *"Don't think it strange when that happens to you because it is not you being persecuted, I am being persecuted."* Where is Jesus? In our hearts.

It is the Lord's desire that all people come to know Him and to know how much He loves, and that is why He has given us the message that God loves them. However, they need to change their ways and give up the selfish self. Not their way, it needs to be the Lord's way.

Look at young Mary, and I say young because she was just a young woman when she had Jesus.

"I am the Lord's servant," she said. It has a ring to it. *"May it be done to me as My Lord says."* In other words, she accepted His plan for her life.

She then went to see Elizabeth, and the Holy Spirit came on her. She sang her song, (Luke 1:46).

"As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, Elizabeth said, the baby in my womb leapt for joy."

RECEIVE WITH JOY

Get the picture, she was six months along. Only a mother can appreciate this. The child leapt for joy when he heard. (Babies can hear in

the womb. They are alive. This is very important. Where people have purposed to kill babies, the blood will be on their heads. Blood guilt can only be taken away through asking forgiveness through the blood of Jesus.)

One time I had a dream about someone in the congregation who was having her 4th or 5th child, and the mother was tired and really didn't want to have the baby. In my dream the Lord showed this woman running around showing the afterbirth to everybody. She had it in her hand, and she was happy about it. I got on the phone the next morning and asked a few questions, "Do you want to have this baby? Do you want to carry it?" She was having some difficulties carrying it and she said, "Pastor, I know I shouldn't feel this way, but I really don't want this baby to live." And I said, "Well, the Lord does want this baby to live." We prayed, and she carried him out full term. However, when the baby was born, what was supposed to be rich with blood and alive, nourishing the child, the afterbirth was grey ash and fell apart. The baby wasn't born in a hospital, but the afterbirth just crumbled and fell apart. It meant the baby was not being nourished in those last months.

The Lord had told me to tell the mother when I spoke to her on the phone that day, "You have to receive this child with joy." At the birth, they saw the child was not breathing. When the mother picked up the baby and held him in her arms, she starting rejoicing and thanking the Lord for this child, and the baby came alive. Thank you, Lord.

When she received that child with joy, what did she do? She acted on the Word the Lord had given her. When she did, the child lived! It wasn't breathing, it wasn't functioning. So beautiful.

There is a plan and a purpose for everyone and everything under heaven that the Lord has created. There is a time and season for these things. You are in this time right now for a purpose the Lord has for your life. If you don't have a purpose, then you are finished. You might as well go on. But

we have a purpose, we have a calling, we have an anointing from the Holy Spirit to work the works of God and do what Jesus wants.

When Mary stood in front of Elizabeth, Elizabeth said, *"Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished."* It is why Mary had favor with the Lord. She believed. She did not resist.

Elizabeth's husband Zachariah was a priest, working in the temple all the time, and he didn't believe. And do you know what happened to him? He couldn't talk for nine months. How hard for a priest not to speak. The Lord had shut his mouth until John the Baptist was born. They asked him what the child's name was and his dad wrote out, "John." *"He shall be called John,"* and then Zachariah could say it. His name will be John. The Lord gave him back his ability to speak.

The Lord we serve is supernatural. Around the birth of Jesus, around His life, around His suffering, crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension supernatural things were happening.

And so, after Elizabeth spoke, Mary said, *"My soul glorifies the Lord."* This was Mary's heart. Mary was the girl, the woman of God, called to carry Jesus, not called to be the "queen of heaven." That is what people have called her.

Jeremiah dealt with something like this in chapter 44. People in the tribe of Judah were calling a goddess "the queen of heaven." It is a false belief, a damning doctrine of devils, applied to Mary. If we met her and knew her, we would know she was faithful and humble. She had a heart for God, faithfulness for her husband, with care and love for people.

She had the heart of the Lord, but she is not the mother of God. She is the mother of Jesus the man.

PRAY TO THE FATHER

At this point, I want you to understand what I am saying. Jesus Himself said, *“Don’t worship me,”* meaning Jesus the man. (John, chapter 16) Nowhere did Jesus tell His disciples to worship Him. He always taught them to worship the Father. Realize that He always worshipped the Father and gave the glory to His Father. He never took it to Himself. In the gospels, what did He call the disciples to do? Believe that He came from heaven.

I love where it says, *“I saw Satan fall from heaven”* because Jesus was in heaven. He was the Lord Himself. *“If you’ve see Me, you’ve seen the Father”* He said to Phillip’s request, *“Show us the Father.”* (John 14) Jesus didn’t call them to worship Him as a man.

Mary believed in Jesus as the days went on. At first she didn’t really understand.

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Verily truly I tell you, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father Himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” (John 16:23-28)

Another version says, *“ ‘Don’t even pray to me, myself, for the Father Himself loves you.”*

In other words, you don’t need to go through anybody to get to the Father because the Father Himself loves you. Pray, *“Father, in the name of*

Jesus I come." Jesus said, *"Believe Me, and I will do it."* He is the ascended Father. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. What does He say He will do for you? He will bring the entire Godhead into you. Do you believe that? This is hard for church people to believe. They are still wondering if He hears their prayers, or if He is there with them.

"In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me because I'm going to the Father." And they kept asking what does it mean *"a little while?"*

ASSIGNMENTS FROM HEAVEN

What is happening here In John 14 thru 16? Take a good look at who Jesus is and what the plan of God is. He knew who He was and where He was going, and what He was to do. *"It is finished,"* when He finished His assignment.

John the Baptist was the same way. *"A person can receive only what is given him from heaven."* (John 3:27) In other words, you can think whatever you want to think, but only what the Lord has given you to do and be will happen. The other will not happen.

Mary understood her role. *"My soul glorifies the Lord."* She was here to glorify the Lord, she did not want people to glorify her. *"And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior."* She knew she needed a Savior, and now He has come. How amazing she had the privilege to bear Him.

Mothers today, think about it. You have the privilege to bear a child from the Lord, and who knows what the gift of God is in them? That will come, that will show itself. It is why you don't want children to be who you want them to be and do what you think they should do. They will have it inside of them, and you are to nurture and care for them. Dads are to provide, protect, and be there. It is a team working. But if there is only one

parent, then the Lord will be the other one to make sure the child grows up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We do not worship Mary. She was worshiping the Lord, *“for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant.”* She was speaking, not the church. Likewise, don’t listen to what anybody says about you except what the Lord says about you. Then you don’t mess up your life, and it will bear witness. Jesus did not receive praise or criticism from people. He knew what His Father in Heaven wanted. He didn’t seek the praise of man. He was here to please His heavenly Father, and He did and said only what His Father in Heaven gave Him to do and say.

Mary said, *“For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.”* (Luke 1:48)

There isn’t a Christmas that goes by that you don’t see Mary holding little baby Jesus. But understand this, there is no little baby Jesus anymore. In churches there are statues of Mary holding baby Jesus, but He is not a baby now. He Himself also said, *“Don’t worship me, worship the Father.”* Why? He was a man at that point. Full man. Full man worships God. That is what we do. A real God-man and God-woman worship only the Lord. We don’t have any other idols. We don’t pray through anybody else, but we pray in the name of Jesus to the Father Himself. *“We come boldly before the throne of grace because of the blood of Jesus. With full confident assurance of faith.”* (Hebrews 10) The Lord wants us to sit on His lap and talk to Him, *“Come on up, child, come up to Me.”* You do not try to come to Him, because He has already come to you, and you have communion. You have fellowship. You are one, you have relationship. Jesus said at Lazarus’ tomb, John, chapter 11, *“Father, I know you hear me always, but I’m saying it aloud so that these people will believe.”* Then we see the shortest verse in the Bible: *“Jesus wept.”* While people thought He was weeping because Lazarus died, no, He came to raise him from the dead. He wept because of their unbelief.

Here is why Mary is different from all the other people out there. She believed the Lord.

Think about it, she was to conceive and have a child without a man. He was to be the Lord. What amazing God-faith. But it wasn't her faith, it was the faith that God put in her to enable her to do her assignment. Throughout her life she had her ups and downs about faith and believing.

There are people who are making the problems about Mary. They are the ones who are worshipping Mary when Mary doesn't want to be worshipped. The church made up a whole different entity, but I am showing you the real Mary. This is her heart. This is what she is about: "I'm the Lord's servant. I need my Savior, and I'm thankful to my Savior, and He has come now to save and forgive all the people."

"From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me." (Luke 1:48-49) She knew and was testifying that the Lord was doing it all. *"Apart from Him I can do nothing, I am nothing. But with Him all things are possible, and I give Him the praise and the glory."*

"His mercy extends to those who fear (reverence, honor, respect) Him." It is all about honor... *"from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble." (those submitted to Him.) "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty." (Luke 1:50-53)* It is not about being rich, it is about thinking you don't need the Lord. The Lord prospers His people so they can be a light for Him and get the gospel out to the nations.

"He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors." (Luke 1:54-55)

"Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home." (Luke 1:56)

She knew the Bible. She knew God's history, God's plan. She was young, but she knew these things. And then, there was a demonstration of the Spirit confirming everything that she knew and had anticipated, had expected, and was waiting to happen. The people were waiting for their Messiah to come.

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus at eight days old to the Temple to dedicate Him to the Lord and He was circumcised. (The first male is given to the Lord.)

"On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived." (Luke 2:21)

Think about the plan and purpose of the Lord.

"When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." (Luke 2:22) (As it is written in the Law of the Lord "Every first born male is to be consecrated to the Lord.") (Luke 2:23) And they offered a sacrifice. I was consecrated to the Lord by my family that way. Understand, this is how the Lord did things.

We are consecrated to the Lord whether we are male or female because in Jesus there is neither male nor female. It is not about gender like the world talks about. It is about spirit and being alive to God.

There were two people at the temple who responded. *"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout." (The*

real deal, a real believer in the Lord.) *“He was waiting for the consolation of Israel (the Messiah), and the Holy Spirit was on him.”* (Luke 2:25) *“It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.”* (Luke 2:26) (The Lord will often show us things before they happen.)

And so, Simeon was not going to die until he saw Jesus. He was in the temple with them, and he was led by the Spirit of God. (This is how believers move around, led by the Spirit of God.) Simeon was a son of the Most High, led by the Spirit of God as Romans, chapter 8, describes. Nothing happens by chance. Nothing about luck. Nothing about karma. The Lord actually leads His people. He guides our steps. He directs our path. My whole life was fashioned by the Lord. Your whole life has been fashioned by the Lord.

Things happen for a purpose. Everything I have gone through has helped all kinds of people all over the world to see that the Lord is mighty, and nothing in hell can stop His will and purpose from happening in Jesus’ name. We are not here just to occupy time and space. There is a purpose and a plan.

How interesting that Moses began his first 40 years in Pharaoh’s house learning everything, the best of the best that the world had, and 40 years in the wilderness being prepared by the Lord to care for His people. What did he do there? He was a shepherd. He knew that land backward and forward and was going to be leading all the people there for another 40 years. He didn’t begin his ministry until he was 80 years old. He then brought them out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

“Moved by the Spirit, he [Simeon] went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus” (There is baby Jesus) *“to do for him what the custom of the law required.”* (Luke 2:27) Everything was done with Jesus the way it was supposed to be done, and who saw to that? The Lord working through Mary and Joseph. Joseph was running with it.

“Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.’” (Luke 2:28-29) He is saying, “It is finished. I have seen the promised One that you told me I would be able to see.” The Lord just loves us so much that He brings everything full term.

“For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all nations.” A light for everybody. *“A light for revelation to the Gentiles.”* Now this was a Jewish priest talking, and He had inside information about the Lord wanting to save all the people through Jesus — past, present, and future. Do you remember Jesus went down and preached the gospel after He died? The only time He preached the gospel was for people to get born again. Where did He preach it? Down where the people were who had died since Adam. He gave them opportunity to believe in Him and receive His light.

“A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:32)

Look at Joseph and Mary’s response. Yes, it was amazing what they had witnessed and seen with the conception and beyond, but now there were people they didn’t know, had never met, and probably would never see again. This Simeon who was going to Paradise was witnessing about this baby Jesus, the man.

“The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.” (Luke 2:33) They marveled, they were amazed, they were astonished.

“Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel.’” It would be the cornerstone on which everything held together for blessing if you receive Him, and for cursing if you do not receive Him and believe in Him. *“And to be a*

sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:34-35)

Proverbs says that if there is a son who is acting like a hellion, many times the dad just forgets about him. But the mother carries the care of the son, and loves him. Loving mothers let their sons become everything that God has intended them to be and encourages them that way. They don't hold them. Jesus had to grow up, and He had to be about His Father's business. And He grew up just like we do.

Next the parents meet prophetess Anna at the temple.

“She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was 84. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.” (Luke 36-37) Devout, righteous. *“Coming up to them at that very moment.”* God's timing is always beautiful. *“She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38)* Because she believed.

“When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child (Jesus) grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.” (Luke 2:39-40) The ability and favor of God was upon Him.

He grew up just like we did. We had to grow up and go through different things. But guess who was with Him? The Father was overseeing everything.

Mothers, be blessed and believe that everything the Lord says for your children. *“All your children will be taught of the Lord”* and will come into everything the Lord has for them. You don't walk by sight, you walk by faith.

I always have to encourage people this way, and it is not a pain. It is a great blessing to encourage people to believe. You may see them go around the mountain a time or two. They may go in and out of faith. They may get into all kinds of things, but understand, a promise is a promise, and the Lord will bring them into all that He has for them at the appropriate time. They will be able to receive the grace and gift of God to change. Because the seed was sown.

You and I are born of incorruptible seed when we become born again. It is the seed of the Lord. His Spirit when you are born again, when you believe in Jesus.

Jesus said, *"You believe in God, believe also in Me."* (John 14:1) He called the people as He walked the earth, and still walks the earth today, to believe in Him, but we are not talking about Jesus the man now. We are talking about Jesus, the Lord of lords, and the King of kings.

You have seen Mary's heart. It is a true believer's heart. We want to see the Lord receiving all the honor, the power, the dominion, the glory. *"Worthy is the Lamb to be praised"* is what the angels and the elders are doing before the throne of God right now.

Speak it forth too because whosoever believes in the name of the Lord will be saved and will have all the benefits of God.

PART TWO

“Be it done to me according to Your Word”

GOD’S PLANS ARE THE BEST PLANS

Have you found that others make bigger deals out of things than you do? On the Mount of Transfiguration Elijah and Moses showed up, and talked with Jesus about the law and the prophets. They were speaking with Jesus before He went to the cross, getting Him ready for the cross and how everything was being fulfilled as the Lord had planned.

But Peter exclaimed, *“Master, shall we camp here? Should we set down tents and be here a while?”* That was not the plan of God, it was the plan of man. People make plans, but the Lord orders the steps, and His will will be done. Many times people want to make their plans God’s plans. Have you ever done that? You are determining what the Lord will do and how He will do it. This creates great issues because how can Jesus Christ be Lord when we are following our own plans? It isn’t the Lord. We are acting as if we are Lord because we are setting down how it is to be done. People can get locked in, stubborn, or religious about it.

Did Jesus listen to Peter? No. Because Jesus was not going to camp there. In fact, Elijah and Moses went back to Paradise. Jesus went back down the hill about the Father’s business to help a dad whose son was throwing himself in the fire to kill himself. It wasn’t the boy. It was a demon that had taken hold of the child, and the disciples could not cast him out. They were in strife about their own will, about their own purpose. (“Who will be the greatest amongst us?”) *“He who would be great in the kingdom of*

heaven must become the servant of all." (Striving, competing, and comparing is of people, it is never the Lord.)

Man comes up with ideas, but little Mary in Luke, chapter 1, said, *"Be it done to me according to Your Word. I am your servant, Lord."* She sang a song by the Spirit about how the Lord is her Savior, her life, her all. Jesus was her Savior. He had come, and she was blessed among all people to have the assignment to carry Him, to be His mom. However, in time man changed that and called her the Queen of Heaven. They have changed many things from the Word of God. The Lord never ordained Mary to be who the church made her out to be.

WHO IS TO BE WORSHIPPED?

The prophets talked about idols and false gods made out of wood or stone that cannot talk or do anything. People would put food in front of the idols that could not eat. They couldn't smell, taste, or touch. They were not alive. They were not real. Jesus has given us authority over all the power of the devil and nothing shall in any ways harm us, but people believed in those things. They were man's gods, not the true Lord. Martin Luther never intended to have a denomination named after him because he never intended to start a new church. Mary never intended to be anything but the mother of Jesus. Man made those changes, and now people worship them.

Some people even worship angels. The Word of God says not to worship them. Every one of the Lord's angels said, *"Fear not, don't bow down to me; worship the Lord."* The devil was a fallen angel. What does he want people doing? Worshiping angels, worshipping him.

Mary never intended to be worshiped. Jesus as man, walking the earth never intended to be worshiped. He always pointed everybody to the Father. Now He has ascended on high, He has become the Lord of lords and King of kings again, having returned to His rightful place. As we pointed out, Jesus

had to have a mom and a dad to be human like us. The Holy Spirit was His seed, and was perfect. Jesus was perfect man, and His mind and His body had to be brought under submission to the Spirit just like you and I. Now we worship the Lord Jesus because He is the Lord, not physical man anymore. His Spirit is now within us, He transformed us.

TRUTH DEMANDS A CHANGE

Martin Luther didn't want to start a new church. He just wanted to get rid of the false beliefs in the Catholic church, the only church at the time. Denominations and divisions came about later, and were all based on what people believe or don't believe about the Lord and the Word of God. So, all that has got to go. There is one Church, one true Church, and Jesus is the Head, not the pope.

He gave out gifts to the church: apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4). We are not yet in the unity of the faith because we still have the denominations out there. There is false teaching in the churches and a lot of misunderstanding about the Lord. Many make up in their own minds who the Lord is. Job was one of those. "I heard about you with the hearing of the ear, but now I know who you are and I repent. I ask your forgiveness, I am changing." Job made changes in how he was viewing the Lord. He had spoken out of ignorance things too wonderful for him, he hadn't understood or comprehended.

Truth demands a change once you come into it. But there is man's church and there is the Lord's church. Jesus is the Head of the Lord's church. The pope is the head of man's church, and the people do whatever he declares for better or for worse. Actually it is for worse. Jesus said, *"In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."* (Matthew 15:9) They changed the Commandments of God. See the booklet on "The Lord's Day," available online, www.glorytogod.org.

“When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child Jesus grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.” (Luke 2:39) The ability and favor of the Lord was with Him. That is happening with us too. I have prayed over babies that they grow mighty in the wisdom and love of God, and in the grace and ability of God, and come into all that the Lord has intended for their life. And they will. The Lord was with Jesus the man just like the Lord is with you and me. *“To them who believe the works I do, and greater works than these you will do because I go to the Father, and whatever you ask in My name I will do it.”* (John 14:2)

In John, chapter 16 Jesus said, *“Pray to the Father Himself because He loves you,”* which means you don’t need the intercession of people. You don’t confess your sins to other people to receive forgiveness unless it is a situation where you wronged them. You ask their forgiveness, but you don’t have to confess your sins. You can go right to the Lord. *“Enter boldly into the throne of grace because of the blood of Jesus...”* (Hebrews 10:19)

“With full assurance of faith” He will forgive your sins. But you don’t have to go through a man as has been taught by the church.

Yes, it is good to confess your faults one to another as James, chapter 5 says, *“that you may be healed.”* Accountability is a good thing, with those you are responsible to, but they are not the Lord. You are not the Lord. The Lord is the Lord and He is with us, He is for us.

KEEP THE LORD’S PLAN

“His parents went to Jerusalem every year for the feast of the Passover.” (Luke 2:41) These people were following the Lord’s Commandments. Mary

and Joseph loved the Commandments, and they did what it said. They carried it out in demonstration.

“When He was 12 years old, they went up to the festival according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day.” (Luke 2:42-44)

Have you ever had thoughts about a situation, but it wasn't really correct? Joseph and Mary thought things were covered, and they traveled on for a whole day.

“Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.” Would any of you leave your children for a whole day, not knowing where they were, thinking that they were with you? We are not blaming, no, just saying that they thought everything was okay. They didn't really give a thought about it.

“When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him.”

How many of your children cry about food after they have eaten? Think about it, for three days Jesus was in the Temple without eating.

“Three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.”

I hear from parents nowadays that children cannot sit for half an hour in school or in church. They have to be entertained. This child was 12 years old. You could say, “Well, He was Jesus.” But what was in His heart? He had questions about spiritual things, not physical things, not personal things that pertained to him per se. He was asking questions about the Lord, who

He is, what He was about, what worship was about. His heart was set on things above. His parents were teaching Him the ways of the Lord, and they followed the ways of the Lord as they understood them. But Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding about who the Father is.

“When his parents saw him, they were astonished.”

Remember they marveled about what the people said in the Temple when he was 8 days old. At this point, they were astonished to see what was going on.

“His mother (Mary) said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’”

Yes, they were going through anxiety, but if they really were concerned, why didn't they bring him along with them toward home? Why didn't they know where he was? Many children nowadays do not know where their parents are. Mary and Joseph didn't know where their child was, and He was sitting in the temple courts among the teachers. Why would the teachers there be talking with a 12 year old? That 12 year old was asking questions, and the teacher wants to impart answers. He was interested. If I were to show up in a classroom, and the children weren't interested in what I was sharing, I would leave. Why? They weren't interested. Any good teacher knows if they are not interested, they are not motivated. If they are not motivated, they are not going to learn, and teachers will not play fun and games and entertain them to do this. *“Be attentive to my Word,”* the Lord says.

Whose responsibility is it to be attentive? The hearer. Not the Lord, not the teacher. People need to be there to learn, and to discern His Spirit. *“Let those who have ears to hear, hear what the Spirit of the Lord has to say.”* If you don't have ears to hear, you can't hear it and you don't want to hear it. You have other things you are more interested in.

Jesus wasn't even necessarily concerned about eating. It doesn't say whether they fed him or not. Think about it. What was His response to Mary and Joseph? They were trying to make Him feel guilt. Would that motivate Him? Was Jesus in rebellion?

I am seeking to establish with you what Mary's relationship with Jesus was. The reality of it is that the Lord is His Father. Who was He following in this instance? Mary or the Lord? He was following and honoring His Father in heaven, but honoring His dad and his mom. He always had respect and honor for Mary, but who would He follow? If you look at God's order for the family and for the home, the mother is to put the children under the dad. She is not to freelance it, away from her husband in a unified, God-working order. (See the booklet "God's Order for the Home.") The dad in turn will tell the children to honor their mother and bring things in line. Therefore, they are a team in a Jesus functioning family.

" 'Why were you searching for me?' " He asked. He knew where He belonged, in the House of the Lord. "My Father's house is a house of prayer." There was a tremendous desire to be in the Temple, to be about His Father's business. All His life, "I must be about My Father's business." He didn't say His mother's business. It is very, very important to get this because there has been a whole movement in the church away from Jesus to mother Mary, and people don't really know who the Father is.

I have seen the statues. Mother Mary is huge, baby Jesus is in her arms and that is it. Maybe there is a cross, but it is insignificant to what is going on in the house.

"Why were you searching for me?" He asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" He put it back to his mother with all respect. Don't you remember who I am? Who my Dad is? Why I have come? Why I am here? I'm not just little boy Jesus I am 12 years old, and I must be in my

Father's house." In other words, "You are my mother, you carried me, you are raising me in the ways of the Lord, but I must be about my Father's business."

This does away with any other nonsense. Mary was privileged by the Lord to be the mother of Jesus, and was honored to be. But as a loving mother, she was to put Jesus back to the Father, give Him back to the Lord. *"This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased,"* said the Father. (Matthew 3:17) *"Listen to Him."*

He was not faulting His mother. He was not disrespecting her. He was calling her back to understanding. Remember, she always pondered these things in her heart because she didn't fully grasp who Jesus was either. *"I must be about My Father's business."* (Luke 2:49)

"But they did not understand what he was saying to them." Alright, if Mary was the Queen of Heaven, wouldn't she understand what was going on? Man has labeled her. She would roll over in her grave if she knew what the Church had done with her, and she would undoubtedly say, "No, this is so wrong. This is my beloved Lord, my beloved Savior, and I am His servant, privileged to be a child of God forever."

Someday we will meet Mary when Jesus comes back. At this time, she is enjoying Paradise with all the other children of God.

You may know that in 1950's the pope declared that she ascended to heaven. What kind of nonsense is that? Who has the authority and the power to make that declaration? The Word of God says, *"It is appointed for a person once to die and after that the judgement."* She is in Paradise with all the others who have died in the faith before us. Thank you, Jesus. Jesus ascended back to His place, His rightful place, as Lord of lords and King of kings. Stephen in the book of Acts looked up into heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Philippians 2 says that Jesus sat

down at the right hand, and He received the glory. There is no other name as the name of Jesus that people should worship and honor, and Him alone.

How many times has man wanted to do things the Lord didn't want them to do? Disciples told Him, *"Don't you know, Master, that they are offended at you?"* Jesus basically answered, *"Let the blind lead the blind, let them all fall in a ditch,"* and "Stay away from those guys. They are teaching you religion, not the ways of God and the life of God. Don't get involved with that." Otherwise, "You cannot be My disciple."

MODELS OF OBEDIENCE

"Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them."

Jesus had done what the Father wanted Him to do, Mary and Joseph had come, and He went home with them. He was an obedient son. An obedient son as a human, the man, and an obedient son of God to His Father in heaven.

"But his mother treasured all these things in her heart." Another version, *"pondered all these things in her heart."* See, she didn't understand what Jesus was talking about, even though the Lord had come for her through the angel and told her what was going to happen. She still didn't get it 12 years later. She was a person like you and me.. You don't see anything but honor in Jesus' heart as He kept the very commandment that He wrote.

Jesus could truly say, *"Before you were, Mary, I was."* (I used that line on my children years ago.) Before you were I was, He was. This really applies because of the false teaching in the Church about Mary. I love that girl. She loved the Lord, and she, like all of us, didn't really understand everything, but she stayed with Him because she loved the Lord. She was a good mother, and Joseph was a fine upstanding dad. He loved the Lord. I don't know how many men would have believed her story. Think about it.

Also Joseph was led of the Holy Spirit to get them out of Bethlehem because the king was coming to kill all the baby boys from infant to two years old. Joseph took them to Egypt in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Do you know the wise men were probably not at the manger? They came later after Jesus was already born. They followed the star. That blows a lot of minds that these guys came from the east. They weren't worshipping the same lord that we worship, but the Lord led them by the star, and they had seen the star. They came to worship this king.

These gifts paid for the trip to Egypt from Bethlehem, for gold, incense, and myrrh were very valuable. When you give your offerings to the king, let alone King of kings, you want to give your best.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:25)

In the meantime, John the Baptist was out preparing the way for Jesus' coming. His calling was to prepare the way, and Mary's was to carry Jesus. John the Baptist prepared the way by having the people repent and turn to the Lord. You have a calling too, and the Lord anoints you to be able to do what He has given you to do. You just have to stay with it. The Lord is communicating what He wants done.

Have you thought about any of the details? More than likely, not too much outside of the manger scene, and no room in the inn. *"Lord, we have a room in our hearts. Come on in."* We receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. You have to receive Him into your heart. He is everywhere, but He wants to be received. *"Be it done to me according to your Word,"* just like Mary received the Lord's purpose and plan, so we receive His purpose and plan.

JESUS FOLLOWED ONLY THE LORD'S PLAN

In the book of John 7:1-5 Jesus went through Galilee, purposefully staying away from Judea. The Father did not want Him going there at that time. He purposed to stay away because the Jews were waiting to take His life. It wasn't His time, so they could not touch Him.

"But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brother said to him, 'Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the miracles you do'." That sounds reasonable. If you want to be known, then you have to make yourself known. Get a publicist and get somebody out there that is publicizing you and what you say and what you do. (That is the way the world does it.)

"No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret," the brothers said. But who ever said Jesus wanted to become a public figure? Jesus never said He did. Instead, He said, *"My words aren't my own words, my deeds aren't my own deeds. I do what my Father in heaven gives me to say and do."* The people were making Him a public figure, but He didn't want any accolades, He didn't want any statues of Himself.

"Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world," the brothers continued. Jesus had brothers and sisters, and they were telling Him this. Note the next statement.

"For even his own brothers did not believe in him." They didn't believe in Him, but they wanted Him to go out and do these things. He knew that if He went to Judea, the Jewish leaders would kill Him before the time. It wasn't His time because the Father said it wasn't His time. He only did what the Father wanted Him to do. It didn't make sense to them that He was not doing it.

Has the Lord told you something through His Word, or in church, or as you are going about, and you didn't do what He said? You didn't believe what He said, or you could not do what He said to do. You didn't think it was the plan. The Lord has only one plan. There are no options or variations. So, anything else has to be people making it up.

In reality, were these brothers for Jesus, or against Him? They were actually against Him because they didn't believe in Him. They told Him to go out and make a name for Himself. Go do it. Well, they were setting Him up. Who is behind man's thinking? The devil.

Remember Peter also said, *"Master, you don't have to go to the cross."* Jesus had just said, *"In three days I am going to the cross, and I am going to die and after that I will rise from the dead on the third day."* Jesus' response to Peter's thinking was, *"Get behind me, Satan. You desire the things of man, and not the things of God."*

What does man do with the things of God? He changes them. He doesn't do anything with them when he does not believe. They did not believe.

THE LORD'S GIFTS

"Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed." (Matthew 6:1-2)

Everybody was always amazed, always astonished. "Where did this man get these things? Where did He get this teaching? He spoke with authority, not like their teachers at the synagogue.

"What is this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this

Mary's son, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?" They had quite a family. "Aren't his sisters here with us? And they took offense at Him."

One minute they were astonished, they were amazed, this is the greatest thing that ever happened, and then they went natural. They had watched Him grow up. They remember Him as Jesus running around in the yard. He laughed, He played, He was a child. He was like any other child in the natural, but His heart was set on the Lord.

People try to make you something you aren't, or make you speak against something you are. Has anybody ever told you you are a phony, a hypocrite, or you are going through a phase? I have heard that before. It is because they do not believe, they do not understand or comprehend. I have heard people say, "Well, he thinks he's God's gift," and I say, "Well, thank you, you understand, you realize." Those in the synagogue didn't, because the phrase "He is God's gift" is man's expression for a prideful person, ignorant, an egotist. However, we are all God's gifts, and when Jesus the Head of the Church, not the pope, gave men to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, He called them to that just like He called Mary to be the mother of Jesus, just like He had Joseph take care of Jesus as a child. We all have a calling, and He anoints us to fulfil that calling, and we are God's gifts.

You cannot treat God's people as common because we are not common, and if you see yourself that way, you are not believing who the Lord made you to be as a child of the Most High God, transformed by the Spirit of the Lord. When you look in that mirror, you do not see a common person. You are a child of the Most High with all the rights and privileges of heaven. Understand that and realize that. Deal with it with authority over all things that are evil and are under your feet in Christ Jesus.

The pope is supposed to represent Christ in the earth. He has been called God's representative. We are the Lord's representative for Christ in the

earth. Jesus is the Christ, the Head, and we are parts of the Body. There is a priesthood of all believers, the Lord teaches. We are royal priests in God's service, offering up holy prayers, created to be to the praise of God's glory. No one is better than another, no one is over another, but each with a function that the Lord has given to perform by His Spirit. He is doing the work to His glory, not us.

What was Jesus' response to the brothers? *" 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives and in his own house.' Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief."* (Mark 6:4-6)

When Jesus wept in John, chapter 11, it wasn't because Lazarus had died. It was because of the unbelief of the people. He had come to raise Lazarus from the dead at the direction of His Father in heaven.

HEAR THE WORD AND OBEY IT

"Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd." (Luke 8:19) Someone told him, *"Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."* What was His response? (Keep things in perspective. He doesn't do anything or say anything that His Father doesn't give Him to do or to say.) What was His attitude towards His mother and brothers and sisters? In the will of the Father. *"My mother and brothers are those who hear God's Word and put it into practice."*

Still honoring His mother, Jesus took it to another level. "My mother hears My words and does what My Father says." We are all part of the Lord's family as we hear His Word and do His Word.

In Luke, chapter 11 Jesus was telling the people about what happens when an evil spirit leaves a person. They go out from the person and wander around, and then they come to the person to get back into him. People must fill their house with the presence of the Spirit of God and continue in the Word and the ways of Jesus, or that evil spirit will come back and try to make its way in. If he finds the house empty it will come in and bring its friends.

People have wondered that the Lord casts devils out of others through us. We are exercising the name of Jesus. When I call out an evil spirit, some people look at me and say, "I've never done that in my whole life. I've never even thought about doing that." They get shook up, but I say, "The Word says the evil spirit brings its friends." Let me tell you, their friends are not nice, and they will come back in. On the other hand, it is just as easy to cast out 50 devils as it is two. So live in the Spirit of God, live holy before the Lord by His grace, and delight in the Word of God. Do what He says and you will not have an issue with these things. Let me tell you, if you are going outside the fence and turning your back on Jesus and the Commandments of God, you will have what you have and it is not going to be pretty.

Jesus was telling the crowd that the final condition of that person is worse than the first. There was a response from the people. As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "She was excited. (What was the woman thinking about?)

"Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." (Luke 11:27), as if His mother had done some unusual thing. Of course a woman would respond like that. Many mothers understand what it is to be a mother, and their love and care for the child. They give their life for the child. Not all do that, but a lot of them do, and it makes a big difference.

Was this a godly response? Look at Jesus' response. Don't follow what man says. Follow what the Lord says. Jesus didn't say anything or do anything that His Father in heaven had not given Him to do or to say.

"He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'" In other words, nothing about mother's paps.

This puts into perspective how Jesus viewed His mother. He loved His mother, and that is evident at the cross when He said, *"John, behold your mother."* (John 19:27) He was taking care of her while He was on the cross dying for all of us to save us, including His mother, and He wanted to make sure she was cared for. *"Woman, behold your son,"* (John 19:26) The love, and the care, is there. He was coming at everything from the Father's perspective, not that she was blessed as the mother who gave Him birth and nursed Him, but rather blessed as one who hears the Word of God and obeys it.

Mary wasn't responsible for Jesus being born except that she was the mother. Whose will was it that He be born? God the Father.

OF GOD'S SPIRIT

Jesus had to be a man. To be a man, you have to have a mother, and a seed. In this case from God Himself. Normally your son is the seed of his Dad. But understand, Jesus' seed was different because it was not just human seed. He was born again of God's Spirit, and when you receive Jesus, you are born again of God's Spirit. Incorruptible seed. (1st Peter 2) A spiritual rebirth. The physical birth is through Adam's line. That seed was corrupted, fallen, and that is why you must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God.

We were born physically so that we can be born again spiritually through the Word of God. A person is blessed through the Word of God because God's Words are spirit and life. But man has changed things. For example, people built statues to honor others. Not a bad thing in itself unless people are worshipping it. They had little shrines.

I must be about My Father's business. By the way, some teach that Mary didn't have any other children. It is obvious that people don't know the Word of God. Jesus had a big family: brothers and sisters. His brother James became the head of the church at Jerusalem. Some of them worked in the ministry. They became disciples of Jesus. Everybody didn't believe, but later they did believe.

I was ostracized by my family when I left the Lutheran church, and the Lord moved me on because I wouldn't do practices that were not what the Word says. I could not do infant baptisms anymore. I could not confess "I a poor miserable wretched sinner confess unto thee, O Lord, all my sins and iniquities ever before me." I changed.

When Jesus was in the Temple, He said, *"I must be about My Father's business."* He also said, *"I had to be here."* He was listening to His Father. *"Don't call anybody father in this earth for you have only one God and Father of all in heaven."*

PART THREE

Faith in Jesus

Previously we have looked at how man changes God's ways. For example, people have taken to worshipping Mary. She never wanted that, nor did the Lord want that. He wanted her to be the mother of Jesus, to be with Him to raise Him. According to her testimony in the Word of God, she wanted to be a humble servant of the Lord, tremendously grateful and thankful to Him, a mighty woman of faith. Who was Jesus' father? The Lord Himself. And so, Jesus always went by what His Father was telling Him, not His mother.

How did Jesus operate as He walked the earth? People have their ideas. Did you get ideas and think they were the Lord's ideas? Did you find later they were not? They could be good ideas and good things, just not what the Lord has.

LIVE BY WHAT THE LORD DESIRES

"How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34) Mary said. She submitted herself to the Lord, allowing Him to do what He wanted to do through her, and Joseph was the same way. He was a faithful man of God.

We people are characters in our own right, and the Lord made us all very special. We were born physically so that we would have opportunity to be born again spiritually. We now live our lives by what the Lord wants, by His ideas, and we test the spirits. We run every idea by the Lord, and sometimes we do that better than other times. We need to go always by what is written and not beyond what is written. We live by the Word of God and by the Spirit of God. As such, those are our guidelines.

How to love the Lord is contained in the first four Commandments, and the second six show how to love your neighbor as you love what the Lord is doing in you. You love yourself because you are a new self in Jesus, born again of God's Spirit, a whole new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come. You are not that old person, that selfish self anymore. I am sure somebody will agree that they like you better now as a child of God than they did when you were a selfish person.

WE MAKE PLANS, BUT...

Everybody has ideas, everybody gets thoughts: I want to do this, I want to do that, I want to go here, I want to go there. *The fool says that there is no God*, (Psalm 14:1) and the fool says that he will do this and that, but no one knows if he will be here in the next moment. It is always "Lord willing, I will do this and that." We make plans, but the Lord orders the steps and He will direct the path for His children.

There are evil plans out there that people have for others, but the Lord will actually count those plans and make them come to nothing. The plans of the wicked will fail, and they will be dealt with accordingly, but the plans of the righteous are ordered of the Lord, and He will cause them to succeed. Numbers 23:19 *"He is not a man that He will lie. Has He not said it, will He not do it? Has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?"* He is not going to change His mind.

The only security in life is the Lord Jesus, the Jesus of the book of Revelation, not the Jesus that walked the earth. He never allowed anybody to worship Him as He walked the earth. He always directed them to His Father in heaven.

OWN THE PLANS THE FATHER GIVES

But people want to do their own thing. Peter wanted to camp out where Moses and Elijah showed up (before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection). They talked to Jesus about what would be happening, and Peter wanted to camp there. Jesus said, "No, we have to go back down the hill where the people are, loving and helping them."

Jesus' life was not His own. He never did anything or said anything that His Father in heaven didn't give Him to do and or say. He didn't have an idea of His own, but He owned the ideas that His Father gave Him. You have to own those for Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, to give your whole life to the Lord. You have to be all in, not a fence sitter.

Be all in, Jesus is First Love. Jesus as He walked the earth had to be full man. He had to have a mother to be fully man. He had to have a mother and a dad, but Jesus' Dad was the Lord of lords, the Father in heaven. Jesus submitted His cause always to the Father who judges justly. By His testimony, He didn't do anything or say anything that His Father had not given Him to do or to say. The Father always confirmed Him. *"This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him,"* the Father said about Jesus the man.

Full man, full God at the same time, but He set aside being full God, Lord of lords and King of kings, in order to take our place at the cross and give us life with Him forever. It is the Lord's plan, and He says, *"I know the plans I have for you, plans for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper you, to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11-12) And they are good plans. This is why we don't need to make up our own plans. What we need to do is ask the Lord, "Father, what do you want to do today, and how do you want to do it?" Let the Lord order the steps. *"The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. Though they stumble, they will not be utterly cast down."* That

has to do with sheep. When sheep are cast down, they cannot get right side up. They need help, and we need a Savior.

WHAT THE FATHER CONSIDERS IMPORTANT

"You shall call His name Jesus." He was given to Mary and Joseph who were obedient to the Lord and followed what He gave them to do for Jesus. The Lord has given us invitation to operate in His plans and purposes as well.

At various points in His life, Jesus says things especially significant. I think many times it is passed over. Let us take a look at the gospel of John, chapter two, and you see Jesus at a wedding. He experienced life just like we experience life. He was tempted as we are tempted, except He never gave in to selfish desires. He did only what His Father directed Him to do. In Jesus, we can do this too. We are always to be about the Father's business. Jesus prioritized life. What was important was not what He or somebody else thought was important. What was important to Him was what His Father in heaven considered important. *"I come, O Lord, to do your will."* Not my will be done on earth, but Your will be done, Lord.

He constantly acknowledged the Father in all that He did and all that He said. This is very, very important. Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path."* That path is going to succeed. His will and purpose will be accomplished.

If we are leaning to our own understanding, then worry, fear, confusion, doubt, desperation, or depression come. When we trust in the Lord, and we know whom we have believed and are fully persuaded and convinced, He is able to keep that which we have given to Him because we know who He is.

HISTORICAL CHANGES

Let the Lord bring perspective and balance into your life. *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23) *"There is none who does good, no, not one,"* the Lord says. (Romans 3:12) That is why He came to save us. That is why Mary is honored above all women because of the blessing of the Lord, but she is not deified by the Lord. She is just like you and me. Elijah, a man like we are, prayed, and the Lord shut up the heavens and it didn't rain. Then the Lord said, "Speak for rain," and the rain came again. The people were under a curse because they had not served the Lord, they were serving other gods.

What you are worrying about and what you are fearing about is an idol in your life. That fact tells you that you have your eyes off the Lord. This is important. You can't really do anything about anything except the Lord help you. Only Jesus can make that difference. He says in John, chapter 15, *"Apart from me you can do nothing. But with me all things are possible for good."* The Lord works only for good.

But Jesus understood all this because He walked in it. He lived in the principles of the Lord. He honored the seventh day Sabbath as part of loving the Lord. Man, by papal decree in the 300's, changed three of the Lord's Commandments. First, they changed the Sabbath day. *"Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. Six days shall a man work."* They cut it short so they could change it to Sunday.

I believe people need to know history. They need to know what really went on. The first slave trader was a black fellow. The Lord doesn't see color, He is not into gender. (Just a man and a woman.) You have to have the seed, and a woman to carry the baby. This is God's order and the way He intended it. Church leaders changed history, they deleted the graven image Commandment, *"Thou shall not make any graven images."* Because there

are Ten Commandments, churchgoers know that, so the leaders later split the tenth Commandment into the ninth and tenth.

Things have been changed for over 1000 years, and nobody knows the difference. Jesus said, *"In vain you do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."* People came up with the alternate commands rather than what the Lord said! The Lord never holds people above Himself. In the 50's the Pope declared that Mary ascended into the heavens like Jesus did. No, she is in Paradise with Jesus along with all the people that have gone on in the faith. And Mary is going to be in that mix. Daniel, Peter, John, Elijah, Adam, Eve also. You will be there to rise and meet the Lord in the air when He comes back. But it is only through faith in Jesus that it happens.

IMPORTANT RESPONSES

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee." (John 2:1)
"Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and His disciples had been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to Him, 'They have no more wine'." She was pointing out, Can you do something here? *They have no more wine.*

Look at Jesus' response to His mom. He always honored her: *"Dear woman."* See, that was how He talked to His mother. Precious to Him. There is no deity about her. She was like you and me, and she had ideas. (Some people are fixers, they try to fix people and situations because they want to see good things happen.)

"Dear woman, why do you involve me? Jesus replied." It was just a little bit controlling. Have you found that sometimes folks break out of the mold for better or for worse? The Lord never changes, and we want the Holy Spirit to be the Controller. The devil wants to control, and he does it through selfish people wanting what they want, and how they want it done. They don't

realize they are being used and abused by a thief who is trying to run their lives and everybody else's life.

Jesus was talking to His mother here. If she was deity, would He talk like that? No, was He disrespecting her? Absolutely not. He was maintaining integrity of relationship. The wedding party never asked for any help, did they?

Somebody asked me one time, "You see all these people healed and things happen, why don't you just go into the hospitals and put hands on everybody and into the nursing home?" I said, "Because they never invited me." Jesus only ministered to those who invited Him into their life for whatever the Lord had. He never took the credit for anything because He knew, "It's My Father in heaven that loves and is doing this through me."

As a man, Jesus didn't want people worshiping Him. He didn't want people praying to Him. (John, chapter 16) He was just a man at that point submitted to His Father in heaven. Just like we are. We have to get this. *"Therefore if any is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old passed away, the new has come."* The Lord gave us authority over serpents, scorpions, and over all the power of the devil. (Luke 10:19-20) *And nothing shall in any ways harm you.* But if you don't know about this, you can't take authority over it, and it is not the people that are the problem, it is what is influencing the people that is the problem. They are being used and abused. We need to separate a person from that other entity that is stealing, killing, and destroying their life and the life of everybody around them. But you have what you permit.

What was Jesus saying? He was not saying that He couldn't do something, He was saying to His mother "It is not my business, it is not my place." Whose business was He about? His Father in heaven. He was not under Mary's bidding when she wanted something. Remember, He said, *"Here are my mother, my brother, and my sisters. Those who do the will of*

Him who sent me.” There is no disrespect, there’s no dishonor. He wrote the Commandment: *“Honor your father and your mother.”* Honor your Father in heaven. Honor what the Lord is doing in your life. Be sober. Be not controlled by anything except the Spirit of God. Be vigilant, alert, watching what is going on around you. Then take action as the Lord directs you to do. What does He want to be done?

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Now, *“Dear woman, why do you involve me? Jesus replied. My time has not yet come.”* That statement is the key. *“My time has not yet come.”*

It wasn’t the desire of His Father at that point. The world will not hate you if you do what the world does, but when you step out and stand up as a child of the Most High God, immediately you are different. That is good, you are a light shining into the darkness.

Jesus said, *“It’s not my time.”* (His understanding of who He was.) We are here to serve our Father, and so what the Father wants, that is our time. He wants us to be part of it. If He doesn’t want us part of it, we say what Jesus said, *“Why do you involve me?”*

The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time. There is a time and a season for everything under heaven. And everything operates in the Lord’s time. A day in the Lord could be a thousand years, or it could be a day.

BY THE SPIRIT

The Lord breathed life into us. We are not just “dirt bags” anymore. We have the Spirit of the Living God in us now, and He is in us, working through us. Jesus said “Woman, why are you involving me in this?” In other words, the people weren’t involving Him. They were not asking Him. There are many do-gooders sitting in churches. They are not listening to what the

Lord is directing them to do. They are listening to what they think is a good thing to be done.

Then what did Mary say?

She said to the servants, *"Do whatever He tells you."* In other words, she was still working it. She was thinking that was the plan, that was what was needed to be done.

Later,

"Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'fill the jars with water;' so they filled them to the brim. Then He told them, 'Now draw some out and take to the master of the banquet.' They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine." (Luke 2:6-9) People will say, "See there. He did do what His mother told Him to do." No, He did what His Father in heaven directed. Was she listening to the Father or was she working out of her own desire to help?

Many Christians think if you start talking about Jesus with people, they will get offended. Do you know Jesus offended more people than received Him? But He was referring to Spirit and life. How will people hear except somebody tells them? Otherwise they stay in their ignorance. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your words, deeds, and steps. When you get a great thought, check it. Say, "Lord, is that you? Truth in Jesus' name." And the Holy Spirit will talk with you just like He talks with me, and we will get the Lord's results.

ASK FOR WISDOM

Don't let pride get in the way. Spiritual pride is a very ugly thing. It is myself deciding what the Lord will give me and what He will not, and deciding

what I will do rather than what the Lord wants. It is being obedient to your own thoughts.

Proverbs 16:2, *"A man's ways appear right to a man, but the Lord searches the motivation or intention of the heart."* Mary was thinking about a miracle. Yes the water turned to wine.

The Lord has such clarity, and He wants to show us wisdom and understanding, but you have to ask Him, "Lord, show me wisdom and understanding." He says, "I won't turn you away. I won't think you are stupid because you don't know something. I will review it." *"Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."* (Jeremiah 33:3)

The religious leaders could not touch Jesus. They tried to kill Him, but they couldn't touch Him. Why not? His time had not yet come. His life was under the control of the Spirit of God. That is why I keep getting sent back. I should have been out of here the last time, two years ago. But the Lord kept me alive, and you know why? I am still on assignment here.

I will never forget, I was driving down the road, and the Lord said, "Son, I really don't care about your opinion." And I said, "Oh, that's good, Lord." And then He continued, "I don't care about your opinion about anything, and I don't care about anybody else's opinion. Continue to teach My people My Word, My truth." Truth is what He wants us all to have. And so, you are not getting an opinion from this pulpit. You are going to get the words from the Lord, and He will confirm those words with signs and wonders.

Recently, the pope just declared that Mary, who was worshipped by the church, has no place in our salvation except being the mother of Jesus the man. We are saved by the blood of Jesus alone. Jesus Christ alone is to be worshipped. Mary is to be honored as the mother of Jesus (the man). She is not the mother of God!

I know that blessed Mary would say, “Amen” to that. She only wanted to worship the Lord who she loved and served.
