

TITLE AND NUMBER: 4. Gabriel appears to Mary

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Luke 1 v.26-38



But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." (Luke 1 v.30-31)

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1 v.38)

What does this Bible passage tell us?

The promise to marry which Joseph and Mary had undertaken was a very serious agreement. It could only be ended by an act of divorce despite the fact that they could not live together until the marriage itself.

Mary was probably about 16 when the angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell her that she had been chosen for a very special task. Mary must have been terrified, not only at the appearance of an angel in her house, but at his message. However, the angel told her not to be frightened for God was pleased with her and she would give birth to a son whom she must call Jesus. The angel went on to say that Jesus would be called the Son of the Most High, a way of saying 'Son of God'. We read in the Old Testament (2 Samuel 7 v.16) that God had promised King David that his rule would never end. This child, a descendent of David, was to be the fulfilment of that promise.

Mary couldn't understand how this could happen to her, an unmarried girl, so the angel explained that the Holy Spirit would do this and make it possible. He said that Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, who was much older than Mary and was thought to be unable to have children, was also going to have a baby, **because nothing is impossible with God.**

Mary's amazing response was that she would do what God wanted despite the fact that she must have known that she was taking a huge risk. Joseph would probably leave her, though we know from the Bible (Matthew 1 v.20) that he didn't because an angel spoke to him later in a dream. She would be shamed by the townspeople, because a girl promised to be married broke God's law if she was not loyal. Despite this, she trusted the angel's message and God's plan. Wow!

Reflections:

- Why do you think God chose Mary to be the mother of His son?
- Put yourself in Mary's position and consider how you would feel. Would you be as ready as Mary to agree to what God asked?
- Put yourself in Joseph's position and consider how you would feel. Would you be as ready as Joseph to take Mary as your wife?
- Isn't it amazing that God chose ordinary people just like us to bring His son into the world? How does the fact that Jesus lived on earth as a human being help you in your faith?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

