



May 8, 2022

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Luke 1:38

I. #1 - The Courage to be a Mother (Luke 1:35–38)

- A. Big decision for all women
- B. Think especially about Mary the Mother of Jesus
- C. Each Christmas we recognize the miracle birth and the heavy burden that came with it
- D. Placing yourself in the hands of God like Mary takes great courage! (Luke 1:35 - 38)
 - 1. Notice the lack of control once the baby is born
 - 2. Notice God has a plan for the baby even when we don’t know what to do!
 - 3. Other people’s experience can encourage you – but they still can’t do it for you!
 - 4. Mary’s courage! To place Her life in God’s hands

II. #2 – The Courage to let your children become what God wants for them (Luke 2:45,46; Matt. 12:46-49)

- A. Even though Mary “pondered these things in her heart” I’m sure she had no real idea what was going to happen
- B. Mary and Jesus went through the ups and downs of childhood (Lk. 2:45,46)
- C. But at 30 years old – at Jesus’ Baptism – everything changed
- D. Mary came to talk to Jesus one day and He explained that “Things had changed” (Matt. 12:46-49)
- E. Kids need to become their own person and pursue their ministry as the Lord leads them!

III. #3 – The Courage to stand with your children even when things are bad

- A No one else can ever share the same intimacy that comes from motherhood.
- B. There has to be a special courage when things are not going well.
- C. One of the things that I admire about Mary is that she remained with Jesus through everything!
 - 1. We know that she was part of his followers’ group
 - 2. We know that she was **standing at the foot of cross and weeping for her son**
 - 3. We know that she **helped get Jesus body off the cross** and wrapped in burial clothes
 - 4. We know that she was part of the group that went to the tomb that Sunday morning
- D. Motherhood is tested in trials – The love of a mother transcends difficulties and failures

IV. #4 – The Courage to mentor others after your children are gone (Acts 1:14, 2)

- A. There is one more courage we want to talk about- the courage to continue on after children are gone!
- B. We find Mary in the **Acts 1:14** continuing to work with the disciples
- C. Mary was part of the **Day of Pentecost** experience with the other apostles! – Acts 2
- D. Mary continued to live with and work with the Apostle John **in Ephesus** as a leader
- E. Again, it takes great courage to keep going – keep mentoring – keep leading others to Christ.

V. The Courage to stand up for marriage and family today! (I Pet. 3:15,16)

- A. The Church stands for life
- B. The Church stands for Biblical definition of marriage
- C. The Church stands for family discipleship and freedom of parents
- D. We must invest our time, money, and energy to support these Kingdom values!