

## From My Tea Cup

Mary would seem like an unlikely candidate to bear the very Son of God, by the standards of men. She was very young and did not come from an affluent family. They were just common people. But we understand that there was more to Mary than what the eye could see. Common on the outside does not mean common on the inside and that is where God looks, upon the heart.

### Luke 1:26-31

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David and the virgin’s name was Mary. 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. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS”

When God looked at Mary she found favor in His eyes. She brought a smile to the face of God. God was pleased by her life that exemplified purity. Mary found favor with God because she had chosen to believe the word of God about the coming of a Savior. She understood that salvation and the forgiveness of sins could only come from God. She knew that God always kept His promises.

Mary had to face fear just as all of us do. When the angel Gabriel told her that she had been chosen for this incredible task she was troubled by the news. There was something unsettling and possibly disturbing in this news. Never had anyone been through what Mary was about to face and she knew that. I cannot imagine the questions and concerns that arose in Mary’s thoughts at that very moment. What would Joseph think? How would her parents respond? What would the next door neighbors say about this?

We all face circumstances that seem to invite fear. Unexpected events challenge us in numerous ways and the burdens can overwhelm us. Some experience unexpected financial setbacks, while others struggle with relational conflicts between family and friends. Illness will sometimes take us off our feet and lay us flat on our backs. Will things ever get better? Will life always be so hard?

When the angel spoke those words to Mary, “fear not,” she listened and made a heart choice to believe those words. We might be tempted to think we would believe those words if an angel came to us personally. But God has given us an entire book filled with promises of care, provision, and protection. That book is the Bible, His Holy Word. Those words are just as real and just as true as if an angel appeared at your door with those words of comfort.

The root of fear is unbelief. We fear that we just might not make it through this situation because God might not really care. I may even doubt God's love for me when things seem to be out of control. But the reality is when things are out of my control, they are still under God's control.

Luke 1: 37-39

“For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah;”

Mary forgot about self and focused her eyes upon God. She realized, “It's not about me, it's about Him!” She humbly asked God to have His way in her life. Accepting that God is always more than enough, she gave Him complete control. There was no resistance, no complaining, and no worry. God had never broken one of His promises nor let any of His people down. This God, Who changes NOT, would be faithful to her and that was all she needed to know. God has all power and He would show Himself strong in her life. God has all wisdom and he knew how to use His power in her life.

Personally, I can be certain that all of the assurances that Mary had are mine for the taking. So many people in our time are crying out for peace. Some think it will be found when there is political peace in this world. Others silently cry out because of the noise within their very souls. Others look to medications, or shopping or entertainment to distract them from the trouble within. True peace can only be found in Jesus Christ. He came to bring peace to our souls and that is not based on our circumstances or surroundings. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ and allow Him to be your satisfaction and experience His peace.