

#26 Mary | August 19, 2018

Mary in Scripture

- The Biblical record of Jesus’ mother is slim, often only making slight mention of her:

Scriptures related to the birth of Jesus	Matt. 1:16, 18, 20; Lk 1:26-56, 2:1-7
Scriptures related to the childhood of Jesus	Luke 2:48-52
Scriptures relating to the ministry of Jesus	John 2:1-10
Scriptures related to the death of Jesus	John 19:25-27
Scriptures related to the Day of Pentecost	Acts 1:14
“In passing” mentions of Mary	Matt 13:55, Mark 6:3

Mary in Theology

- What was her nature?
 - Immaculate conception—did she have “original sin?”
 - Nothing in scripture would teach otherwise.
 - Where did the idea come from?
 - One of four dogmas of the Catholic church about Mary.
 - Even they say that there is no explicit teaching of this in scripture.
 - They go from implicit teaching—Genesis 3:15, Luke 1.28
 - Best understanding: Mary is a righteous woman whom God chose to be the human mother of the Son of God. Her calling is great, but her nature is like ours.
- Was Mary a perpetual virgin?
 - This belief is largely attributed to Catholics, but also held by many Lutherans and Anglicans. It was upheld by Martin Luther and John Wesley. The 1599 Geneva Bible notes strongly affirm perpetual virginity (this was the Bible of the reformers, pilgrims, etc.)
 - Did Mary have other children? A fairly strong circumstantial argument can be made that the brothers of Jesus were *older* and were from a previous marriage of Joseph.
- Is she *Theotokos* (the mother of God) or *Christotokos* (the mother of Christ)?

- Council of Ephesus of 431 AD solved this issue for theologians.
 - Nestorius said she was the Mother of Christ...and he was banished as a heretic!
- The issue is really more about Christ than about Mary.
- The issue: Was Christ fully God when He was born? Since He was, then Mary is *Theotokos*.

Mary in Respect

- Mary should be honored because God honored her.
 - She was the one to receive “the desire of women” (Dan. 11:37).
 - Luke 1:28 is the clear statement of God’s opinion about Mary.
 - Luke 1:42 is the first human statement spoken about Mary’s honor.
- Mary should be esteemed for her insight.
 - Luke 1:48
 - Luke 2:19, 51.
- Mary should be imitated for her righteousness.
 - She was willing to keep her life a pure vessel for God’s use.
 - She was eager to be a humble servant of the Lord (Luke 1:38).
- Two statements to remember.
 - **Behold, the handmaiden of the Lord...** Luke 1:38
 - **Whatever he saith unto you, do it** John 2:5
 - Parallel with Pharaoh’s statement about Joseph, Gen 41:55.
 - Like Joseph, Jesus will provide plenty!
 - The mother of our Lord is the first person to express a complete trust in the words of Jesus. She commands action based entirely on the Word of Jesus.

Mary in History

- The unbiblical *veneration* of Mary came about in the middle ages when praying to Mary, frenzy over supposed relics of Mary, and visions of Mary abounded.
- In 1531, according to Catholic legend, Mary appeared to a peasant named Juan Diego in central Mexico (a town which is now called Guadalupe), eventually instructing him to build a church, and leaving a picture of herself. This picture has become the most famous picture of Mary in the west, and possibly worldwide.
- “Our Lady of Guadalupe” is a reference to Mary. The “Our Lady of Guadalupe” church in Guadalupe, Mexico is the most popular religious pilgrimage site in the Western Hemisphere.
- The first “Our Lady of Guadalupe” church in the United States was established in 1801 and is located just off the plaza in Taos, NM.