



DATE: 26 June 2024 WED

TEXT: **Luke 2:19, 51**

TITLE: **:: Like Mary**

But Mary kept all these things,
and pondered *them* in her heart.

Luke 2:19

REVIEW

Think like David: God's created works

Think like Asaph: God's previous actions

Think like John: God's marvelous love

Think like Haggai: God's great forgiveness

Think like Malachi: God's familiar names

Think like Joshua: God's prosperous Word

INTRODUCTION

- "It's different with your own" or so the saying goes...while other babies might be cute or even adorable, *your* child is the best that ever was!
- for **MARY**, however, her child really was special:
 - angel's announcement of conception
 - shepherds, angels...and eventually, wise men
 - reception at the Temple...Simeon and Anna
 - the journey down to Egypt
 - Jesus' unusual childhood

Luke 2:51

...but his mother kept all these sayings
in her heart.

in **Luke 2:19**, the word used is *ponder*

ponder = to weigh one thing against another; to examine carefully

Mary would not merely reminisce about the memories she had of Jesus; rather, she would weigh each action, word, and experience against what she knew about God and her place in His will

kept = to guard

NOTE: compare this idea with what Mary must have been thinking and feeling in **John 19:26-27**

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

something else to bear in mind at this point: Mary had at least six other children so the fact she remembered all the circumstances of Jesus' birth indicates she understood the significance of His life

the little we know about Mary from scripture is clouded by Catholic mysticism and dogma:

she was not 'the mother of God'

she was not a perpetual virgin

she did not ascend to Heaven

Mary was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body. ~ Pope Pius XII, 1950

she is not the co-redemptress of salvation

nor is she a 'sky goddess' dressed in blue

in order to follow Mary's example, we must be:

1. CONFORMABLE

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

this was the **OUTWARD** expression of her dedication to God and His plan

any ideas Mary might have held about starting a family, having children, or even that child's name, had to give way to the will of God

consider her age, reputation, the timing, etc.

in the same sense, any notions we might harbor as to our own lives must give way to what the Bible says concerning Jesus

'What would Jesus do?'

to answer that question, you must define **WHICH** Jesus to whom you refer

Muslim, Mormon, JWs, Catholic, social

Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

the correct answer determines how we will live, serve, dress, speak, etc.

cf respect for office of president

in order to follow Mary's example, we must be:

2. COMPLIANT

Luke 1:47-48 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

this was the **INWARD** submission to God's plan

compliant = inclined to agree with others or obey rules; meeting certain standards

Mary was human, just like the rest of us, and needed to be **SAVED**

she was not *the mother of God*, but the human vessel God used to bring Jesus into the world

and notice her **HUMILITY**...the low estate of his handmaiden

Mary wanted God's will to be accomplished in her life

no doubt she had grown up hearing about the promised Messiah and if she was to be the one God used to bring him about, she would be willing

in similar fashion, John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, said that He *must increase, but I must decrease*

John 3:30

in order to follow Mary's example, we must be:

3. COMMITTED

Luke 1:28 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.

A. Committed To Excellence

the word *favored* comes from the same Greek word as *grace* (charis)

Mary was not elevated in status above all other women on earth

rather, the angel was saying that Mary was "graced by God"

the phrase refers to Mary's character...
Heaven had been observing her for some time

What we were doing *after* God called us is reflective of what we were doing *when* God called us

1 Samuel 16:11

...There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.

Acts 13:2

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Mary had already been following an excellent way of life, and for that reason, God chose her to carry Jesus

NOTE: Catholic dogma teaches that Mary was born without original sin and remained sinless for her entire life...

...the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception...was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.
~ Pope Pius IX, 1854

B. Committed To Her Son

this goes beyond a regular commitment to nurture or provide for a child

all throughout His life, Mary was faithful in supporting the work of the Lord

John 2:5

His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Mark 3:31

There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.

Acts 1:14

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

as Mary pondered the life of Jesus, she would have considered:

His words

His work

His strategies

His prayer life

His other relationships

but all of this would have come from knowing His character and calling

NOTE: as you focus on the person of Jesus Christ...how He came into this world, His ministry while in the world, and the influence He has had upon every life, keep in mind how each of the gospel writers addressed their biographies of Him:

- MATTHEW** The King of The Jews
- MARK** The Ultimate Servant
- LUKE** The Perfect Man
- JOHN** The Savior of The World

The Master, by John Pollock

A Harmony of The Gospels, by A.T. Robertson

The Words And Works of Jesus Christ, by J. Dwight Pentecost

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.



THINK reading list:

Philippians 2:5-11 Hebrews 3:1-6 (5:5-14)
Revelation 1:10-18 (19:11-16)



THINK playlist:

Tell Me The Story of Jesus
Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry