

I. Introduction:

- A.** On that first Christmas, the little Baby in that manger was the beginning of the greatest move of God in the history of the world. Literally, God Himself—the second person of the Trinity—was a newborn all swaddled up inside a ragged bunch cloths. Crying, fussing, coughing, there He lay, the Savior of the world. Truly, what an inconceivable way for God to make an entrance into the world. Jesus, who always had been for eternity, had now been incarnated. He was now born a human being just like everyone else who has ever lived. This is a real shocker of a development in redemptive history.
- B.** As incredible as this all was—as incredible as what had just been birthed—there was a real person who had to birth it. There was a young woman who was chosen by God to carry this Christ to term—and then raise Him—because she had been found fit to do so. So, tonight, we’re going to explore a few lessons that we learn from Mary’s obedience to God, which resulted in the most significant development in all of redemptive history.
- C.** First, just for fun, think of all the stories we’re going to hear in the next age. Perhaps Moses will talk about the parting of the Red Sea. Then, maybe Elijah will speak of resurrection miracles. Perhaps someone else in the corner will say something about how their prayers led to Saul of Tarsus’ conversion. Then walks in Mary who says, “Well, friends, I gave birth to God!” She may not say it so tongue-in-cheek like I’m imagining, but I’m sure we’ll have moments like these in the unending day—in the resurrection.

II. Prophetic promise.

Luke 1:26-37 | ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.”

- A.** Imagine this being your life assignment. Everyone wants a good prophecy, but few think of the responsibility of what the prophecy means. What a weighty responsibility Mary accepted. She was actually the one spoken of by Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14).

III. Personal plight.

- A.** Think of the immense difficulties Mary endured in her obedience to God. Here are just a few examples:
- In all likelihood, almost nobody really believed her. Except for a very small group of people (Joseph her husband; Zacharias and Elizabeth her relatives; Simeon who dedicated and prophesied over Jesus; etc.), the broader community she lived in would have viewed her as a crazy lady for talking about her miracle baby stories.
 - Her Baby was the cause of sudden, dramatic political pressure that led to a vast amount of children two and under being killed by the command of Herod (Matthew 2:16-18).
 - Her life was not normal by any means. Everybody says they want dreams, visions, angels, prophetic words, supernatural occurrences, etc., but not everybody thinks of how important obedience becomes when the will of God is so clearly revealed.
 - The Son she raised was crucified, though He truly was (and is) the prophesied Messiah of Israel.

IV. Powerful perspective.

Luke 1:38 | Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

- A.** Despite the highly unusual nature of Mary’s life assignment, she chose to serve the purposes of God for her with enthusiasm. In doing so, she serves as an example to all who are called to serve God, especially those who a called to serve God in unique ways. Her attitude from the very beginning was to say yes to God.

V. Concluding application.

- A. Let's look briefly at Luke 11:27-28. Let's be like Mary who simply heard and obeyed. Therein lies the blessing of God!

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for December 16, 2022.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** We pray from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Come on out! The Central Illinois School of Prayer January 2023 winter mini-mester will be here soon. Visit gphop.org/school for more information.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianoapolis House of Prayer; Florianoapolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Lackland Air Force Base in Bexar County, Texas.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*