

5 Myths About Mary (Part 1) – Various Scriptures

Lk 1 (Intro)

We're continuing our Lessons Learned series this weekend, by focusing on the life of Mary

But instead of devoting 1 week to her life, we're going to spend 2

B/c the more I got into it, the more I realized the difficulty of learning the truth about her, without first debunking the errors, the myths

Many of which are so entrenched in people's hearts and minds, that it makes the whole discussion a touchy subject – an "Untouchable" if you will

So let me just say from the top – this message is going to bother some of you

B/c it's going to challenge some of your closely held beliefs

And though I don't relish the thought of having you mad at me . . .

There's so much confusion and wrong thinking about Mary . . .

And so much false hope, and bondage, and spiritual blindness – all in the name of religious tradition . . .

That it begs to be addressed – both for your sake *and* God's

B/c God is a God of truth, and he wants you to walk in it

So please, listen to the end; And then search the Scriptures yourself

And ask yourself why you believe what you believe

Is it b/c the *Bible* says so, or the traditions of man?

- With that in mind then, let's read Lk 1:26-38 just to get the context of who Mary is . . . Before we launch into 5 commonly held myths about her

The first myth about Mary, that actually comes from *this* passage, is that . . .

Myth #1 – Mary is the product of an immaculate conception

That's the belief taught by the Catholic Church, as are all the rest of these myths – that

Mary was somehow born without sin

That she was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception

The problem is, that's totally contrary to what the Bible says

Rom 3:23 says – *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

(Rom 3:10) And *there is none righteous, not even one* – Rom 3:10

(Rom 5:12) And *death spread to all men b/c all sinned* – Rom 5:12

Which means Mary was born with a sin nature just like the rest of us*****

- Not only that, but there's nothing in the Bible that even *implies* anything otherwise – including Lk 1:28 where the angel says . . .
“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is w/you”
Or, as is still translated in some circles, “Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you”

However translated, it's that phrase that gave rise to the medieval idea, some 1000 years after Mary . . .

That she had “every gift, not only spiritual but secular, even above those given to angels” (Raymond Brown, *The Birth of the Messiah*; 326-27)

Not only that, but they advocate that somehow the angel's greeting implies that God's favor and grace extended over her entire life, beginning with her entry into the world
And therefore warrants the conclusion that she must have been conceived without sin
Which lead Pope Pius IX in 1854, to declare the Immaculate Concept. as true and fr God
All that, from “*Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you*”

- It's a classic example of “proof texting”
Taking a portion of Scripture out of context, and using it to validate your previously held belief, when that's not what the passage says, means, or even implies
The angel's greeting simply points out the amazing grace and favor that was granted to Mary in being chosen to bear the Messiah – that's it

And we call her the “Blessed Virgin Mary” b/c of it – and rightfully so, b/c she is

All generations will call me blessed she said in Lk 1:48

B/c she was amazingly privileged, to be chosen by God for such a unique/special role

- But anything beyond that, is special pleading in order to support the preconceived notion that Mary had to *be* perfect, in order to *carry* the perfect
That's where the medieval thought of her immaculate conception originated

For which there's *also* no biblical support . . .

In fact, it totally flies in the face of *our* imperfect bodies as believers, being temples of the perfect *HS* today (1 Cor 6:19)

She didn't *need* to be perfect in order to carry the perfect, nor was she

All of which means that the immaculate conception of Mary is a myth – it's not true

There's not only no biblical support for it, but the premise for it in the first place is totally unnecessary

She was a young woman just like many of you . . .

And she was born with a sin nature just like the rest of us

Myth #2 – Mary was a perpetual virgin

IOW she was a virgin not just when Christ was conceived, and up through his birth – but she was a virgin her whole life, start to finish

A belief that popped up b/c some people advocated that her womb was a *shrine* for the HS, and therefore would have been defiled by sex

None of which, again, has *any* biblical support

There's nothing in the Bible about her womb being a shrine of the HS . . .

And the supposed defilement by sex is completely contrary to the scriptural teaching that within the confines of marriage, sex is *holy* and *good* (Heb 13:4; Gen 2:24)

- What's more, this thought of her perpetual virginity, flies in the face of the biblical record in **Mt 13:55-56** where those in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, ask . . .
Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us?
If *his* mother was Mary, and *their* mother was Mary – then she wasn't a virgin after he was born

And the word for brothers and sisters here, does *not* mean “cousins” in this context

There's a word for that in Greek, and it's not used here
Nor is it figurative for some kind of *brotherhood* or *sisterhood*

The plain sense of Scripture here is that Jesus had blood brothers and blood sisters via a common mom – Mary
Which means she didn't continue to be a virgin after she gave birth to Christ

- In addition to that, siblings or not, **Mt 1:24-25** *clearly* implies that Mary and Joseph enjoyed normal, healthy, sexual intimacy in their marriage, after Christ was born
It says – *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.*
Implying that he had sexual relations with her *after* she gave birth*****

So it's a myth that Mary was a *perpetual* virgin; Nor did she need to be
She was a virgin at the time of Christ's conception and birth, so as to avoid any suggestion that he was anything *but* the Son of God . . .
But afterwards, she wasn't

Myth #3 – Mary is a **co-redeemer** and **co-mediator** with Christ

A *co-redeemer* in that she somehow shared with her Son in the act of redemption, not as an equal, but as a participant
Largely as a result of supposedly offering him up to the Father at Golgotha, having carried him and raised him as a child

In addition to that, it's also believed that she is a *co-mediator* with Christ
That she lives as the “Queen of Heaven and Earth” – interceding along with Christ, between God and man
Again, not as an equal, but as a participant

That is, the grace that comes from Jesus to us, right now, flows through Mary – that's the belief
And therefore she is someone to whom we can entrust all our care and prayers
B/c she has the ear of God, right next to Christ

- That, is heresy; And idolatry
Anytime, any one, or any thing, in any way displaces or dilutes or shares in the sole right of Jesus Christ to be worshipped, sought, followed, and adored – it's idolatry

Like the obsession with supposed apparitions or appearances of Mary, on anything from walls to toast
It doesn't matter whether they're figments of over-active imaginations, or the result of demonic influence, or random coincidences of nature
When they're worshipped and sought and prayed to – it's idolatry

- The Bible says in **1 Tim 2:5-6** – *There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.*
One mediator, not two; Not a primary one, and a secondary one; But *one*

Who gave *himself* as a ransom for all
Not himself and someone else; And not *by* someone else on his behalf; He gave *himself*

And Jesus said in **John 14:14** – *If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*
Not if you ask in *Mary's* name will I do it
Not if you go *through* her to me, will I do it
But if you ask *me*, Jesus said, directly, in *my* name – I will do it; I will answer
That's the pattern for prayer that Jesus laid out for us*****

- Mary is not the Queen of Heaven and Earth – it's not in the Bible
Nor is she a *co-redeemer* with Christ in any sense of the word
And though she is most certainly *in* heaven, she is not a *co-mediator* through whom the grace of Christ flows, and to whom we can or should pray
All of it is completely contrary to the Scriptures

She was a human being just like you and I
Defiled by sin, just like you and I
And in need *herself* of a redeemer, and mediator, and Savior – just like you and I
It's a myth, a falsehood, to say otherwise

Myth #4 – Mary didn't die, but was **assumed into heaven**

This belief comes from the Catholic doctrine of Assumption, that says she averted death due to her sinless nature, and was taken up to heaven – soul *and* body

And once again, there's absolutely no biblical support for it, whatsoever
No implication, no inference that could be made, nothing
It's a total argument from silence

In fact, she's not even *mentioned* in the NT after Acts 1 and the ascension of Christ
And it was generally accepted among the early church fathers that she died
There's no biblical support for her assumption

- Not only that, but it wasn't until the middle of the 20th century that this belief even became dogma – that it was officially adopted by the Catholic Church
And the purpose for doing so, was to retain some semblance of consistency in their belief

B/c if Mary was immaculately conceived and had no sin, then neither was she subject to death, b/c death is the result of sin
Therefore, she must not have died

It's a classic example of one false belief leading to another, and then another, and another
Which only serves to compound the problem, and lead more and more people into more and more error

- The Bible says (**Rom 6:23**) that *the wages of sin is death* . . .
And (**Heb 9:27**) *it is appointed for man to die*

So given the lack of anything in the Bible that says anything otherwise – Mary died
She died just like all the rest of us will die . . .
B/c she had a sin nature just like all the rest of us . . .
And therefore was subject to sin's curse just like all the rest of us*****

All of which means it's a myth that Mary was taken up into heaven in some divine assumption – she wasn't
Nor did she need to be in order to preserve a sinless nature that didn't exist

Myth #5 – Mary should be venerated as someone sacred

That is, she should be revered, honored, worshipped, adored, idolized, and esteemed . . .
As someone sacred – someone *worthy* of worship

Which brings us right back to heresy

B/c God says in **Is 48:11** – *My glory I will not give to another.*

He will not share his right to our praise and adoration, with anyone else*****

- What's more, nowhere do we find in the Bible that Mary is to be exalted, or anything close to it
Some would *say* we should, based on Elizabeth's words to her in Lk 1:42 where she says – "*Blessed are you among women . . . And (v45) blessed is she who believed*"
Some advocate, based on Elizabeth's statements of fact re Mary's blessing, that her veneration is not only supported, but demanded

But the fact that Mary is blessed – that she is the fortunate recipient of God's abundant favor in carrying Jesus . . .

Does not in any way imply that we are to exalt her

What's more, she is blessed *among* women some manuscripts say in v28, not *above* them

- The exclusive worship of Christ is such a big deal in the NT, that you'd think the apostolic writers would have told us if anyone else were to be treated that way
But they didn't – it's nowhere to be found
It's only Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Leading to the conclusion that the veneration or exaltation of Mary as someone sacred, someone worthy of worship . . .

Is not only a myth, but sacrilege, blasphemy – and shouldn't be done (**Summary**)

- Why do you believe what you believe?
Don't be deceived
B/c wrong thinking and wrong belief in this case, leads to false hope
False hope that Mary hears you when you pray to her . . .
And false assurance that she can answer . . .
And bondage to what is wrong; And spiritual blindness to what is right
Know the truth, and let it set you free, to walk in

it Pray