

HISTORY: MARY, DID YOU KNOW

Tuesday, December 9

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,*

Mark Lowry was a hand-full! Born in 1958, he was diagnosed with ADHD at an early age. This gave him almost unlimited energy but made it difficult for him to focus on his schoolwork or sit still for very long. Since Mark was not athletically inclined, his parents channeled his energy into music – something he loved to do. Mark grew up performing in school, church, and community musicals and plays. At Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University), Mark sang with a travelling musical team. After this, he toured as a professional singer in local churches. His comedy career began almost by accident as he began filling in the space between songs with anecdotes about his life. In 1988, he joined the Gaither Vocal Band and stayed with them on-and-off for over 20 years. He has also released 12 solo music and/or comedy albums through the years.

In 1984, as Mark worked on a Christmas program for his church, he began to imagine what it would have been like for Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mark later wrote:

“When I wrote this thing about Mary, I began by thinking I was interviewing her on her thoughts of being a mother to Jesus. A couple of the lines I wrote really stood out like ‘when you kiss your little Baby, you’ve kissed the face of God.’ I just thought this needed to be a song.”¹

About 7 years later, Mark showed his poem to fellow musician Buddy Greene who wrote the music for Mark’s lyrics. It was first released by Michael English in 1991. It didn’t take long for the song to catch on and be sung by multiple singers from Christian artists to country stars, pop singers, and a cappella groups. Some have calculated that it has been recorded by more than 500 professional artists!

Some have criticized the song for various reasons. Some have called it too simplistic in its theology, while the Catholic church considers it heretical because of its view that Mary was born without sin (a view not supported by Scripture) and thus she did not need to be “delivered.” Some evangelicals state that the simple answer to all these questions is: “Yes, Mary did know!” But I prefer to view this song as a series of questions that encourage us to think more deeply about who this Child born to a virgin really is. The question for me is not if Mary knew all these things about her Child – but do WE!

As you read through these lyrics, consider your view of who Jesus is. Is He the “Great I AM” or simply a cute little Baby in a manger? Do His many miracles prove His deity or do you still question His power the do something great with your life?

Reader, do YOU know?

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Lowry

² <https://dogwoodjournal.com/the-history-behind-mary-did-you-know/>