

**duplicating
discipleship**

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● **lesson four**

the availability of mary

Lesson 4: The Availability of Mary

Isaiah 6:8

Then I (Isaiah) heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Hebrews 10:9

then He (Jesus) said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL."

Background – What do you know of Mary the mother of Jesus? Look up these Scriptures and write some things the Bible teaches about Mary.

Cf. Is. 7:14

Matthew 1:16-24

Luke 1:26-27

Mark 6:3

Luke 2:33-35

Luke 2:41-49

John 19:25-27

What have you learned about her character?

How important is "character vs compromise" in our society today?

How likely are we to do what is right, "no matter what"?

In what ways was Mary blessed?

What burdens did she have to bear?

How did she manage to “bear her burdens”?

Had you been her neighbor, would you have been likely to help her or to have shunned her?

Action - How was she available?

And Mary said, "Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38, NAS)

Mary's humble statement is not a promise to be available for God's use in the future, but the expression of a heart that was already open and available to God. Keep this in mind as you read the passages and answer the questions that follow.

Extra Credit: Read Matthew 1:18-25. (Use other sources to read about what happened to Jewish women who were found to be pregnant outside of marriage.)

How does this knowledge effect your view of Mary's behaviors?

What action words are used throughout the following passages?

What roles did worship and remembrance play in Mary's life?

What kind of life did Mary lead?

Luke 1:38, 39-45

Luke 1:46-56

Luke 2:19

Luke 2:21-24, 39-40

Outcome - What impact did her availability have?

How would Mary's out of wedlock pregnancy be viewed today?

Would Mary have treated the half-brothers of Jesus different from Jesus?

What social stigmas did Mary have to endure throughout her life?

Would she have said "Yes" to God had she known what the next 33 years would hold?

Is the title "Mother of God" appropriate for Mary? If not, what was she?

How do you think it came about that she became so venerated or honored?

Consider 1 Timothy 2:5 and then answer the question if she should be asked to intervene on our behalf.

Think back over the passages you have read, then identify the people who were directly impacted by Mary's actions.

How did Mary's availability affect the following?

- Mankind (Romans 8:12-16, Titus 2:11-14)

- The World (John 12:44, 2 Corinthians 5:19)

- Creation (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- You (1 John 2:1-2)

Application - How can you be more available?

As you have read, the story of Mary is dynamic and filled with action. A life that is available to God does not remain static. In what ways has your life become static or stale?

What are you willing to do about it?

How do you believe is the best way for Christ followers to grow?

Mary's remembrance of what God had done in her life led to worship. Take a moment and recall the good things that you have seen God do in your life.

Read Ephesians 2:1-22 You are his workmanship. If you are a follower of Christ you are now a part of God's household. You were once dead, but are now alive together with Christ. As a member of God's household, how will you be more available so that you may draw others into God's household?



Modern-day example of availability: Kevin Phillips

In addition to serving as a captain with the Dallas Fire Department, Kevin serves as an elder at WBC and teaches an adult Sunday School class each week. He also can be seen serving in the nursery and children's ministry wherever needed.

He serves as a mentor to young men in our student ministry. Kevin has recently begun serving in the Waxahachie Bible Church prison ministry. He demonstrates what it means to be available to the Lord's calling.