

The Type of Person God Uses

Why God Chose Mary (Luke 1:26-33)

Intro

God is looking for people He can use - those He can bless and honour for His glory. The question is: what kind of person must I be to be used by God?

2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "*The eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, so that he can show his great power in helping them.*"

If you want God to use you greatly you need to learn a few principles that we find in Scripture, especially in the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

God Chose Mary

I want us to look at Mary – why God chose Mary above all the women to be used for His purpose and glory. There are a lot of misconceptions about Mary. Not once in the Bible does it say we're to worship her. Not once does it say she was perfect without sin. It does not say she was divine or God. It doesn't say we're to venerate her. In fact, what is special about Mary was her plain humility. God took an ordinary woman and used her in an extraordinary way. That's what makes her special.

Why did God choose Mary? It wasn't for her education because she didn't have much. It wasn't because of her wealth because she was poor. And it wasn't for her maturity because she was a very young teenager. God chose Mary because she trusted God.

Notice that an angel came to her in Luke 1:26-27, "*God sent an angel, Gabriel, to Nazareth, a town of Galilee to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary.*" Gabriel explained what was going to happen and Mary's initial reaction was shock. *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'you have found favour with God.'*

Mary was "*greatly troubled.*" She was petrified, and scared. Wouldn't you be a little scared if an angel showed up at your door? She had every reason to be frightened but she didn't let her fears control her. God said, "You're going to be the mother of Jesus the Messiah." I'm sure all kinds of fears came up.

- The fear of criticism -- "What's everybody's going to think? I'm a virgin and I'm having a baby."
- The fear of the supernatural -- "What will happen to me?"
- The fear of inadequacy -- "How can I handle this?"
- Fear of change -- "How will this change my life?"

These same four fears will keep you from being used by God. What's the answer? There are at least three things in a person that God uses:

1. God uses the person who desires to do His will.
2. God uses the person who is fully committed.
3. God uses the person who trusts in His word.

If you'll apply these three things in your life, you'll find God using you in ways you can't even imagine.

1. God Uses the Person Who Wants to do His Will

You've got to want to do God's will, more than anything else. You've got to say, "*I want God's plan for my life.*" You need to cooperate with God's purpose for your life or you'll miss it. You could waste your life and squander your life and in the end not make it count. God used people who desired to do His will. It's the kind of person who says, "*God, I really want You first in my life and I want to be what You made me to be.*"

One day an angel shows up to Mary and says, "*God's got this fantastic plan. He's going to come to earth so we'll know what God's like. He's going to use your body Mary.*"

Why did God chose that way to come to earth? Why did God come as a baby?

Two reasons:

1) Because He didn't want to frighten us. Nobody's afraid of a baby. God could have come with fire and lightening in the air and scared everybody to death. But instead He chose to come as a baby so nobody would be afraid of Him.

2) He came into this world the same way that everybody else came into this world -- by a birth - - so He could relate to us and we could relate to Him and He would understand our feelings. He came into the world just like everybody else came into the world -- through a birth.

God tells Mary, "*I'm going to use you to be the mother of Messiah – to be the vehicle by which I enter the world.*"

Mary's response in Luke 1:46-48: "*My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices in God my Saviour, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl.*" Mary didn't say, "Find somebody else!" When God says, "I want to use you," Mary didn't say, "I've got a career to decide about... I've got my plans, my ambitions, my dreams... This really isn't convenient for my life right now... I've got to think of what's best for me."

Mary didn't say, "Can't you get somebody else?" Mary did not decline God's will, she wanted it. God uses the person who wants to be used. Do you want to be used? There are two attitudes that Mary showed that you must have in your life if God's going to work in your life.

1) Attitude of Enthusiasm. Mary says, "*My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices...*" It's not a matter of acceptance or tolerance. It's a matter of eagerness. "God, I want to be used. I want You to use me." Nothing great is ever done without enthusiasm. Where do you get enthusiasm? The word comes from two Greek words: "*en*" and "*theos*" which means *in God*. If you get in God you'll be enthusiastic.

2) Attitude of Humility. "*Thank You for thinking of your humble servant girl.*" Mary did not say, "I was wondering when You'd get around to choosing me!" No, she just says, "*I'm a humble servant girl.*" The point is this: None of us deserve to be used by God. God blesses us, not because we deserve it, but because He desires it. God gives us what we need not what we deserve. You'll never deserve it so you just humbly say, "Thank You, Lord, for working in my life."

How do you know when you really want God's will first in your life? You know for sure by listening to Him every day. If you're not having a quiet time, if you're not listening to Him, you're not desiring God's will for your life because you go day by day without checking in with Him. God speaks to people who listen.

One of the reasons God chose Mary is because she had a listening ear. She was tuned into God. Luke 2:19 *"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them."* Underline "often". She had a habit of listening to God and God speaks to people who listen.

What do you desire most in life? To get married? To be financially independent, or to make a million? To retire? You had better have a greater purpose in your life than any of those or you're going to miss the main purpose. They're fine, they're good, but they're not the purpose of life. The main purpose is to desire God's will and to do it.

2. God Uses the Person Who is Committed

There is always a cost in following God's plan for your life. If you were to say to God, "Today, I will give You more of me. This next year I want to be closer to You. I want to be more in the centre of Your will." It's a commitment and it's going to cost you. You're going to have to give up some things and prioritize.

Mary desired God's will most of all. She decided to take the risk, and to pay the cost. Luke 1:38 says *"Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants.'" Have you ever said that to God? Underline the word "whatever."* In essence Mary said, "God, I'm willing to do whatever You want."

What does "whatever" include? Everything! Mary said I'll do whatever God wants. Does that sound a little risky? Have you ever said that to God? It's being willing to pay the cost. Can you imagine what it cost Mary to say "Yes?"

The first thing it cost Mary was her reputation. She was a virgin. Can you imagine Mary saying, *"What will everybody think? I'm single and I'm pregnant and the baby's going to be God. What will my parents think? What will my friends think? What's my fiancé Joseph going to think?"* If you were engaged and your fiancé said, "By the way I'm pregnant and you're not the father but it's God." Mary probably thought I'm going to lose the man I love over this.

The point is this: if you get serious about God's plan for your life there are going to be people who'll misunderstand you and there will be people who criticize you. Mary sacrificed her reputation. God's purpose for my life includes some problems. They're not accidental. They're part of the plan. And that's part of the cost. There's always a cost of commitment.

Step one; desire God's will for your life more than anything else. Step two; be committed and pay the cost. That's why God chose Mary.

3. God Uses the Person Who Trusts in His Word

It takes courage to be used by God. Courage doesn't mean you're not afraid. Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear. It's facing your fear. Another word for courage is faith. Mary was a woman of deep faith. She didn't have all the answers but she did know who did and she trusted Him.

Luke 1:34-35, 37 (Living Bible) *"Mary asked the angel 'But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin.' The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you. For every promise from God shall surely come true.'" Underline "promise."* God uses people who dare to trust His Word and promises. God did miracles in Mary's life.

You say, “Why doesn't God ever do miracles in my life?” Perhaps because you're afraid He will. Perhaps you're afraid of miracles. Some of you might think, “If God does something supernatural in my life, I might lose control.” It can be a scary thought. Perhaps the reason God doesn't do miracles in your life is because you don't expect Him to. You want play it safe spiritually.

Mary had every reason to be worried. But instead of worry, Mary worshiped. In Luke chapter one we have Mary's song of worship. Instead of worrying, she worshiped. Instead of panicking at the unknown, she praised and prayed.

When you come upon situations where you think you're in over your head. Don't worry – worship. Don't panic – pray and praise. Anytime you're afraid it means you've forgotten the Word of God and His promises. Claim those promises through His Word.

Jesus said, “*What is impossible with men is possible with God*” (Luke 18:27).

God uses people who desire His will more than anything else in life, who decide to be committed no matter what and who dare to trust His Word and step out in faith and do it.

And if God can take a teenage girl like Mary, a poor peasant teenager, with no education and choose her to be the mother of Jesus Christ, don't you think your excuse is puny for why you're not letting God have all of your life? Are you willing to be used by God?

Can you say, “God, anytime, anywhere, any place, use me. Whatever it means. If it means putting my agenda, my goals, my financial package all on a line – I give it to you Lord.”

But it starts with a desire. A strong determined desire to do His will. To be committed to His will and to trust His word and promises.

It's Christmas time. Let me ask you a very personal question. What are you going to give Jesus for Christmas? It's His birthday. You've bought gifts for everybody else. But what can you give God? He's got everything? What do you give the person who's got everything? Jesus has everything...wait a minute!

No, He doesn't. He doesn't have all of you unless you give it all to Him. My suggestion is that this Christmas as your Christmas gift to Christ, you say, “Lord, here I am – all of me, the good, the bad and the ugly. Take it, break it and make it. You form it and You do whatever You want to with it. I'm yours!” AMEN!!