
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Round Yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Message #1 in the sermon series

Silent Night, Holy Night

Sunday, November 30, 2025

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**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

In the carol "Silent Night," yon is an antiquated word for "that" or "over there," so "round yon virgin" means "around that virgin". The entire phrase "all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child" translates to "everything is calm and bright around that virgin mother over there and her child," referring to the Virgin Mary and the baby Jesus. (Arika Okrent, *The Week: 6 grammar points to watch out for in Christmas songs*; January 2015.)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."

³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. (Luke 1:26-38, NLT)

What do we know about Mary?

1. She was a _____ woman from the tribe of _____.
2. She was engaged to Joseph, who was also from the tribe of _____ and was a carpenter from the city of _____.
3. Even though they were both descendants of King David, they were _____. (Luke 2:24)
4. Since Jewish girls married young, it was likely that Mary was a _____ when the angel Gabriel appeared to her.
5. Gabriel's greeting to her indicates that she is literally "highly _____" of God.

Mary had been "graced" by God in that she had been chosen to bear God's Son (1:31, 35). She had not been chosen for this task because she possessed a particular piety or holiness of life that merited this privilege. The text suggests no special worthiness on Mary's part. (Robert H. Stein, *Luke: The New American Commentary*, page 82-83.)

Mary's response reveals her humility and honesty before God. She certainly never expected to see an angel and receive special favors from heaven. There was nothing unique about her that such things should happen. If she had been different from other Jewish girls, as some theologians claim she was, then she might have said, "Well, it's about time! I've been expecting you!" No, all of this was a surprise to her. (Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, page 172.)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT)

6. Gabriel said that she was going to have a baby boy to be named _____, and that God would give him the _____ of David, and he would reign over Israel forever without end.
7. When Mary asked how this would be accomplished, Gabriel said that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, the power of the Most High would overshadow her, and that the baby will be _____ and be called the _____ of God.
8. This message from Gabriel also meant that Mary would remain a _____ throughout the pregnancy and birth of Jesus.

What do we know about Gabriel?

1. He is identified in Luke 1:19 as the angel who _____ in the _____ of God.
¹⁹Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! (Luke 1:19, NLT)
2. He was sent to Mary to bring her a specific _____ from God, and he let Mary know that God's word will _____ fail!

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard

your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

The Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ Mary responded,

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.”

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home. (Luke 1:39-56, NLT)

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.

⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. (Luke 2:1-7, NLT)