

“STEWARDING GOD’S MIRACULOUS GIFT”

Sunday, December 18, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service and responsibility—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

It is important to keep in mind that the *role* of a steward is to do what their master has called them to do. Their *responsibility* is to be faithful in the process.

1Co 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

This call to faithfulness comes from One who is faithful Himself.

1Th 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

He is our faithful Master. Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

‡ **Stewarding God’s Gift**

Over the course of the next 5 messages we will consider God’s Gift of His Son and how we are to steward this most precious of all gifts. Our challenge: Seek to be a faithful steward of God by *stewarding God’s GIFT*.

I. God’s Merciful Gift (Matthew 1:18-25)

John Newton, the famous hymn writer of the beloved hymn, “Amazing Grace” once wrote; “Although my memory’s fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

Seeing the value of Christ as a *merciful Gift* we considered ourselves as great sinners in need of a great Savior. Jesus Christ is that great Savior.

II. God’s Miraculous Gift (Luke 1:26-38)

A. Mary’s _____ (v. 26-33)

1. A Startling _____ (v. 26-29)

Luk 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, *thou that art highly favoured*, the **Lord is** with thee: blessed *art* thou among women."

"*highly favored*" – Lit. "full of grace"—a term used of all believers in Ephesians 1:6, where it is translated "accepted."

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of **His** grace, wherein **He** hath made us accepted [*full of grace*] in the beloved.

2. A Spectacular _____ (v. 30-33)

a. His _____ (v. 30-31)

Joseph was given this same message in Matthew 1:21.

Matthew 1:21 And she [*Mary*] shall bring forth a **Son**, and thou shalt call **His** name **JESUS**: for **He** shall save **His** people from their sins.

"*Jesus*" is the Greek form of the Hebrew word "*Joshua*" which means Jehovah is salvation or **Jehovah saves**.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore **God** also hath highly exalted **Him**, and given **Him** a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of **Jesus** every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; **11** And *that* every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of **God** the **Father**.

b. His _____ (v. 32-33)

As the "Son of the Highest" His position would be above all others.

Colossians 1:17-18 And **He** is before all things, and by **Him** all things consist [*are held together*]. **18** And **He** [*Christ*] is the head of the body, the church: **Who** is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* **He** might have the preeminence.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a **Child** is born, unto us a **Son** is given: and the government shall be upon **His** shoulder: and **His** name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Note that the "greatness" is upon the Son and not His mother.

B. Mary's _____ (v. 34-38)

1. Her humble _____ (v. 34)

"And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,..." – The angel does not rebuke her for her question.

The Greek word translated, "holy Thing" – sacred; blameless

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when **He** cometh into the world, **He** saith, "Sacrifice and offering **Thou** wouldest not, but a body hast **Thou** prepared **Me**:"

Consider Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For **He** [*the Father*] hath made **Him** [*Jesus*] to be sin for us, **Who** knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of **God** in **Him**.

1 Peter 2:22 **Who** did no sin, neither was guile found in **His** mouth:

1 John 3:5 And ye know that **He** was manifested to take away our sins; and in

Him is no sin.

Therefore, He could be the *unspotted Lamb of God* who could be the **perfect sacrifice**.

2. Her humble _____ (v. 38)

She submitted herself to this stewardship.

Mary, the “*handmaid of the Lord*” humbled her will to the will of the Father. As a “*doulay*,” a female bonds slave, she was responsive to the will of her Master.

Luk 22:42 Saying, “Father, if **Thou** be willing, remove this cup from **Me**: nevertheless not **My** will, but **Thine**, be done.”

William Barclay (a 20th century theologian) once said, “The world’s most **popular** prayer is, ‘Thy will be changed.’ But the **greatest** prayer is, ‘Thy will be done.’ Mary prayed the latter.”

“God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.”—**Andrew Murray**

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for **God** resisteth the proud [*the one insisting on his own way*], and giveth grace [*divine help*] to the humble [*the one submitting to God’s way*].

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of **God**, that **He** may exalt you in due time: **7** Casting all your care upon **Him**; for **He** careth for you.

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