

Receptive to God's Grace

December 24, 2023

Luke 1:26-27, *“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.”*

Luke 1:28, *“Gabriel said to Mary, “Greetings, favored one!”*

1. Mary was on good terms with Gabriel

2. Mary was favored by God

Favored One: highly favored because one is receptive to God's grace

3. Mary was receptive to God's grace

Luke 1:30, *“The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.”*

James 4:6, *“God gives grace to the humble.”*

Luke 1:30-35;37-38, *“The angel said to her, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end. ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.”*

Philippians 2:8, *“He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant... ⁸ Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

4. Mary humbled herself before the Lord in obedience

5. Mary was open to what the Lord wanted FOR her and FROM her