

Day 1

...and the virgin's name was *Mary*

Read Luke 2:26-38

When the angel visited Mary he pointed three things out about her. What were they? (Vs 28)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Because Mary was favoured by the Lord, the Lord was with her, and she was blessed among women she would be able to endure what was ahead. She would need the Lord's strength and blessing for the coming days, months, and years. God did not choose her to be Christ's mother randomly. God knew she would be the type of woman who would rely on Him and remain strong.

We can't expect to endure whatever is ahead of us without His strength. We just can't. We absolutely need God's strength. Whatever path the Lord has laid out for you, know He has chosen that path for you. He knows that if you rely on Him you will be able to endure it. With His help, glory can be brought to His name through our lives.

Day 2

...Mary went to see Elisabeth *with haste*

Read Luke 2:39-45

What characteristics of Elisabeth show her to be a great friend?

Why? Why Elisabeth? Mary went WITH HASTE to see her dear friend Elisabeth. And when she got there she was greeted with love and encouragement. Elisabeth wasn't jealous of Mary. She was also

pregnant at the time but instead of being upset about not being chosen to be the mother of the Saviour she praised Mary.

Elisabeth recognized Mary's faithful heart and encouraged her that the Lord will do what He has said. She made sure Mary knew that this was a great thing happening.

What kind of friends are you running to? Are they encouraging you that the Lord knows what He is doing or tearing down your faith? Do they see the good in situations and in you? Read again the characteristics that made Elisabeth a good friend and compare your friends. How do they line up?

Day 3

...and Mary said, my soul doth *magnify* the Lord

Read Luke 2:46-47; Psalm 34:3

Magnify means to make larger and glorify. Think of a magnifying glass held over a blade of grass. It is made to look much larger and we can see the beautiful details easily.

We can't make God bigger. He holds us in the palm of His hand. But in Psalm 34 we are told to magnify the Lord. So how can we do this? How can we magnify the Lord and make Him bigger in our lives?

1. Tell people when He has done things for me
2. Praise Him for what He has done
3. Purposely see Him in all situations

What are some ways you can magnify the Lord and make Him bigger in your life?

Day 4

...He that is mighty hath done to me *great things*

Read Luke 2:48-49

How is Mary described in this passage? How is God described?

God works in us and through us. Without Him we are weak and worthless. Mary saw this. She understood it. She knew that she was not some super human but rather someone God could use. God delights in using us regardless of our low estate. In fact, our low estate makes allows us to see Him even more clearly. We must remember- when I am used by God it is not because of me but because of Him!

Day 5

...He hath shewed *strength*

Read Luke 2:51-56

What seven things does it say God has done?

Mary recognized the miraculous work God was doing in her. This was not some simple thing. This was a display of God's power and His strength.

In what ways has God shown His strength to you this year? Have you honored Him for it? Have you given Him the glory and praise? Can you see that God is doing something powerful in your life for His glory?