

If You Were Mary?

Sunday Morning, December 7, 2014

Thesis:

Abandon Yourself to God's Will

Introduction:

At age 16, Madame Jeanne Guyon (1648-1717) was forced into an arranged marriage to an invalid 22 years older than her. She found her marriage to be one of utter humiliation. Her husband was often angry and depression. Her mother-in-law was extremely critical and never pleased. [Even the maid despised her.] In spite of her best attempts at devotion to her husband and family, she was subjected to relentless disapproval. Forbidden by her husband to attend church, she sought God in His Word and worshiped Him in secret. She learned that even in the midst of her dreary circumstances she was "perfectly fine-within the safe hands of God." In her book *Experiencing The Depths Of Jesus Christ*, she wrote, "Abandonment [to Christ] is the key to the fathomless depths. Abandonment to the spiritual life."

Mary yielded to the Will of God even though her sacrifice would be great...

I. Faith That Seeks the Will of God is . . . Humble (Luke 1: 26 – 29)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"
29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

(Psalm 8:4)

What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?

God Qualifies Us For His Work

You may feel like an unlikely candidate for God's plan or work, but don't limit God's choice. He can use you if you will trust Him and remain humble.

II. Faith That Seeks the Will of God is Seeking Direction (Luke 1: 30 – 34)

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.
32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end."
34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

(Acts 22:10)

So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.'

Ask God For Direction and Be Confident in Him!

Once we ask God and receive His answer, our faithful response will be based on God's Word.

III. Faith That Seeks the Will of God is . . Submissive (Luke 1: 35 – 38)

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

✠ Mary Believed & Trusted in God's Purpose

✠ Social Consequences Were High –
Yet She Trusted God.

✠ Submission Requires Sacrifice

(Romans 12:2)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good & acceptable and perfect will of God. God's Will is Acceptable

We must be willing to accept God's Will no matter how costly it is.

Conclusion:

Mary's answer contained all that our Lord requires-the pure, simple submission of the soul to His will. This was the secret of Mary's deep spirituality: She abandoned herself to God's will in the present and received the grace to do what God asked of her both in the present and in the future.

If you were Mary, how would you respond?

Invitation & Lord's Supper

(Matthew 26: 26 – 29)

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."