

**GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.**

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

**TOPIC: Mary — A Model of Obedience and Trust**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26–38; 2:19**

May 12, 2026

**1. Introduction:**

Mary represents a **model disciple**—a woman whose faith, purity, humility, and obedience reveal what it means to say **“yes”** to God.

Her story teaches believers how to trust God when His plans disrupt our expectations.

Mary’s response to God—***“I am the Lord’s servant; may your word to me be fulfilled”***—is one of the clearest biblical pictures of surrendered discipleship.

**2. Exposition of the Text**

**A. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–33)**

Gabriel announces God’s plan:

- Mary has found **favor** (grace) with God.
- She will conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear the Son of the Most High.
- This fulfills God’s eternal plan and Old Testament prophecy.

Mary is troubled—not by the angel’s appearance but **by the meaning of his words**.

**B. Mary’s Honest Question (Luke 1:34–38)**

Mary asks, ***“How will this be?”***—a question of **process**, not unbelief.

Gabriel explains the miracle:

- The Holy Spirit will come upon her.

- Nothing is impossible with God.
- Mary responds with total surrender:  
***“May your word to me be fulfilled.”***  
 This is obedience rooted in trust, not understanding.

### **C. Mary’s Treasuring Heart (Luke 2:19)**

After Jesus’ birth and the shepherds’ testimony, Mary **“treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”**

This reveals:

- Reflective, meditative faith
- A mother who watches for God’s hand
- A disciple who listens deeply

### **3. Key Themes:**

#### **1. Obedience Rooted in Trust**

Mary obeys without knowing the full picture.  
 Her obedience is immediate, humble, and wholehearted.

#### **2. God’s Grace Precedes Our Obedience**

Mary is “highly favored”—not because of her merit, but because of God’s grace.  
 Her obedience flows from God’s initiative.

#### **3. Humility as the Posture of a Disciple**

Mary calls herself the “servant” or “handmaid” of the Lord.  
 She models a teachable, surrendered, and available spirit.

#### **4. Faith That Endures Through Uncertainty**

Mary’s trust continues through:

- Pregnancy outside of marriage
- Flight to Egypt

- Raising the Messiah
- Standing at the cross (Luke 2:35 fulfilled)

Her obedience is not a moment—it is a lifestyle.

### **Breakout Room / Discussion Questions**

1. When has God asked **YOU** to trust Him without full understanding?
2. What does Mary's question in Luke 1:34 teach **YOU** about honest faith?
3. How can our congregation cultivate a culture of obedience and trust in God's word?
4. What does Mary teach **YOU** about responding to God's interruptions in our lives?