

May 11, 2008



The Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



Lesson Leader:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
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God's Project:
Effective Christians
Who have been Set Free
Studies in Galatians

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Text</u>
4/27	No Other Gospel	1:1-12
5/04	Salvation by Faith	2:15-3:5
5/11	Mother's Day Lesson	
5/18	Purpose of the Law	3:19-4:7
5/25	Christian Freedom	5:1-15
6/01	Walking in the Spirit	5:22-6:10

Next Sunday:
Series on Galatians continues
Be sure to be here!!

All members are encouraged
to **ENCOUNTER** God each
Wednesday at 6:30pm
in Luper Hall

MARY: A MOTHER'S CHARACTER LUKE 1:26-38

מרים - μαριάμ - *Miriam* - Mary

Who is the most famous mother ever? It would have to be Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is revered—some even say, worshiped—by millions. Yet in many evangelical churches she is relatively unknown. One of Southern Baptists' most capable interpreters wrote:

It is no doubt wisely provided that we know very little concerning the personal history of "Mary the mother of Jesus." The traditions relating to her, so highly prized by Romanists, are of no value. She was probably a descendant of David. We know nothing of her parents, or of any brothers; there is allusion to a sister [John 19:25], who is by some identified with "Mary the wife of Clopas," ...and who must have borne the same name. We are informed that Elisabeth was her kinswoman [Luke 1:36], so that Jesus and his forerunner were remote relatives. Mary's early home appears to have been Nazareth, and she probably lived a life of poverty and toil. As to her character, we are somewhat better informed...Mary was of course not faultless, but her character was worthy...and she deserves our admiration and gratitude (Broadus, *American Commentary: Matthew*).

- 1. Devout, quick to believe (1:38, 45)** What Mary could not rationally understand she accepted by faith. Obedient acceptance—the "essence of her outlook on life. She was here in the world as the servant of God" (Summers).
- 2. Anxious to overcome doubts (1:34)** Mary was perplexed. How could she, an unmarried girl, become a mother? *Know no man—virgin—παρθένον* (27) is the usual word for a sexually pure person. Mary knew the angel's announcement was impossible humanly. Her virginity, affirmed only twice in scripture, is an integral part of the story (Wilcock, *TBST*).
- 3. Rejoicing in her place in God's plan (1:46-55)** In response to Elizabeth's blessing, Mary's song of praise describes God's work in her life (48-49) and in the redemptive history of Israel (50-55). Have you ever dared to believe that God had a purpose when He made you? *Rejoices* (47) expresses her inward joy as she thinks of how God will use her life.
- 4. Familiar with scripture (1:46-55)** Mary's song (the "Magnificat", from the Latin word for "magnifies", or "exalts"; lit. "makes great") makes free use of Old Testament language, revealing that she had thought deeply about the angel Gabriel's earlier message to her. She refers to Israel's deliverance from Egypt—*scattered those who were proud...brought down rulers... exalted those who were humble...filled the hungry*.
- 5. Thoughtful and reflective (2:19)** After the angels' announcement, the shepherds went to Bethlehem, found the family in the stable and reported the angels' visit and message. Those who heard it were amazed—*wondered*. Luke points out Mary's reaction: she *treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart*. She stored the shepherds' words inside for careful consideration in days to come.


Mother's Day