**The Favor of God!**

Luke 1:26-38

**James 2:5** Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom, which he promised those who love him?

**1 Corinthians 1:27-28** But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

**1 Samuel 16:7** The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart!

**Two qualities** God wants to see in a man:

1. Humility!
2. Faith!

* God wants to see that we have a sense of our unworthiness—that we are totally dependent upon Him for everything.
* All God wants from anyone is to be believed. He is looking for a man who is willing to trust Him with his life.

**Notes:**

**Martin Luther** “He might have gone to Jerusalem and picked out Caiaphas’s daughter, who was fair, rich, and clad in gold embroidered raiment and attended by an (entourage) of maids in waiting. But preferred a lowly maid from (shabby, low-down) town.”

Incredible prophetic promise from God through his servant Nathan:

**2 Samuel 7:11-16:** “‘The lord declares to you (King David)….When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up **your offspring** to succeed you, **who will come from your own body**, and I will establish **His** kingdom. **He** is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of **His** kingdom forever. I will be his father, and He will be my son….Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

**Notes:**

What did Mary probably understand when Gabriel announced the Good News to her?

Kent Hughes writes,

“*She understood the gist of the angel’s announcement: “You are going to become pregnant; you are going to call your son’s name Salvation, he is going to be the Son of God, and he will be the Messiah.” What an earful! What an incredible heartful*!”[[1]](#endnote-1)

Do see her a faith here? Why did she believe? She believed because her faith rested upon the evidence.

1. She was very familiar with the stories in the Old Testament.
2. She knew all about the miracles God had performed in the past.
3. And deep inside her heart, she knew with God all things are possible.

Mary asked: **How is this going to happen?** Gabriel then explained it to her…that the Holy Spirit would ‘overshadow’ her. According to Hughes, “It was a reference describing God’s presence in the sanctuary and the “bright cloud that overshadowed” the Lord and the apostles at His Transfiguration. It was a reference pointing to the virgin birth which fulfilled the prophetic sign given by Isaiah 700 years earlier: “The virgin will be with child and will birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Is. 7:14)”.

Joyce McFarland “*God has a way! What He means to be—will be. What He purposes to be—will come to pass. What He starts, rest assured—He will finish. If you don’t believe it just ask the “Little Shoebox Girl!”*

What He is looking for in you and me are two things:

* Humility!
* Genuine faith!

The Bible says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace (favor) to the humble.”

In **Psalm 51:16-17**, David writes,

“You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

What is David saying here:

* He is saying that God despises religiosity that is devoid of genuine faith.
* He is saying that God hates religion that does not explain that Jesus is the only way!

So, what does God love? Look at **verse 17:** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise!”

1. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2015), 36. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)