

Advent

The Gifts of
Christmas





Finding
Peace

Luke 1:26-40

You can have peace.



“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.”

Luke 1:26-40





Finding
Peace

Luke 1:26-40

Mary found peace through struggling.



Mary found peace through struggling.

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.”

Luke 1:29

Mary found peace through struggling.

“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:30-33



THIS IS FINE.

Mary found peace through seeking.



Mary found peace through seeking.

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:34

Mary found peace through seeking.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Mary found peace through surrendering.



Mary found peace through surrendering.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38

Mary found peace through surrendering.

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

Mary found peace through surrendering.

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

“No word from God will ever fail.”

“Mary is, to that extent, the supreme example of what always happens when God is at work by grace through human beings. God’s power from outside, and the indwelling spirit within, together result in things being done which would have been unthinkable any other way.”

N. T. Wright

Mary found peace through surrendering.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38

Mary found peace through sharing.



Mary found peace through sharing.

“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.”

Luke 1:39–40

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Colossians 1:19–20