

CHRISTMAS FOR THE VALLEY

THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY

December 5, 2021 // Lead Pastor, Tyler Scott

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In our Christmas FOR The Valley series, we are looking at the Christmas Story through the eyes of the main characters. This week as we meet Mary the mother of Jesus, we focus on her humble acceptance of God's plan for her life. We follow her along some key moments and movements that shed light on why she is indeed a woman we can all admire, learn from and appreciate.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- What is your favorite Christmas carol?
- Silver Bells is a famous Christmas carol that includes the line, "Christmas makes you feel e-MO-tional..." Does Christmas make you emotional in any way? Why or why not?
- Is there anything special about this Christmas, or a recent one, that contributes to making your highs HIGHER and your lows LOWER?

I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT

READ Luke 1:28-33. As the angel (and all of heaven) waited to see if Mary would play along with God's plan, she responded with a simple-yet-profound statement: *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled"* (v38).

- What do you think of Mary's response?
- Why did Tyler challenge us with the simple idea that "I am the Lord's servant" should be the fundamental identity of every Christ follower?
- What do YOU think would happen if we all responded to promptings of the Spirit of God by simply saying, "I am the Lord's servant." (i.e. to encourage a co-worker; reach out to a family member; initiate reconciliation with a friend; give a significant gift; invite/bring a certain friend or neighbor to church, etc.).

What are the names of 3 PEOPLE you can invite/bring to Christmas Eve at CPC?

MARY'S SONG (The Magnificat)

READ Luke 1:46-50.

- What stands out to you from the first 5 verses of Mary's Song (known as "The Magnificat")?
- Share two reasons why your soul glorifies the Lord.
- What is one mighty deed that the Lord has done in your life?

READ Luke 2:39-40.

In what ways was Mary meticulous as a mom?

Share an example of someone who, in your opinion, is a fantastic mom. Explain some of her attributes.

READ John 19:25. Jesus' disciples deserted Him in his greatest moment of despair, yet Mary literally stood by his side as He hung on the cross.

- Why do you think it still means a lot to Jesus when He sees your love and loyalty?
- What are some circumstances where you can stand by Jesus, show that you are proud to follow Him, or share how He has changed your life?

READ Acts 1:14. Mary spent time praying and in fellowship with others.

- Why do you think this is an important part of the life of a Christian?

THIS WEEK:

- Mary is an incredible woman of faith. This week read Luke 1:46-55, Mary's song, and spend time worshiping God.
- Pray for your unchurched friends, neighbors and family members.
- Pray for the courage to simply invite them to church next weekend and/or on Christmas Eve.