

Faith Life Weekly –

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said,” Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38)

There was a great discussion in bible study a couple of weeks ago on the subject of Mary at the birth of Jesus. How much did she know? Why her, and not someone else? What must she have been feeling? Clearly, there were countless women who would have been more prepared and knowledgeable at caring for the Son of God; who would have been more capable materially of providing for his well-being; who had more connections to worldly power and influence. But would those persons have had the humility and ruthless trust that Mary was able to display? Not likely. It’s easy to say that the Lord’s birth happened in spite of his circumstances – a teenage mother, meager surroundings, a chaotic and messy environment to begin life – and that all of that just magnifies and points to the power of God to do the miraculous. Or maybe it happened because Mary was so young and so open to hearing the Lord. Maybe it worked because she had every reason to be humble, and obedient, and faithful. Maybe Mary was the perfect one for the job, as so many underdogs have been in the past when God needed someone to fulfill his promise. Moses the stutterer, David the “little man” and adulterer, and then there’s Noah and Sarah and so many others. But God used them.

At the holidays, it’s easy to get caught up in who got what gift from whom, and compare it to what we gave and received this year. And likewise we have this tendency to do that in life. We wonder, “why didn’t God give me the blessings and gifts of THAT person?” But we need to remember that no matter who we are, God has created us fearfully and wonderfully to serve and participate in his kingdom. And just as Mary found out, we too will likely be amazed to see what God can do with our lives if we’ll let go of what we don’t think we can do and say, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” God loves you and so do I.

Breath of Heaven by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

***I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary, with a babe inside.
And I wonder what I’ve done
Holy Father, you have come
And chosen me now to carry your Son.***

***I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone
Be with me now. Be with me now.***

***Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me. Breath of heaven.
Breath of heaven. Lighten my darkness***

*Pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.
Breath of heaven.*

*Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should've had my place
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong, help me be, help me.*

*Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me. Breath of heaven.
Breath of heaven. Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.
Breath of heaven.*

QUICK REMINDER – “BLUE” CHRISTMAS SERVICE for any and all who are mourning a loss or are suffering other setbacks both physical and emotional this holiday season will be at **5:00 P.M on December 16th, at St. Pauls.** This has been moved from the original time of 4:00 p.m.