



Sermon Title: "Favor With God"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Steve Overholt

Though we see a woman pictured here, the statements are true for all believers.

I-Mary was Favored-

Favor is from the root word for grace.

As believers, we are all recipients of the grace of God.

The verb for 'Favor' in this form is only found elsewhere in scripture in Ephesians 1:6.

We not only experience grace in salvation, where we are saved from the punishment from sin, we also experience grace in adoption into God's family; where those adopted are many times taken from difficult situations through no ability of their own.

We are also predestined to be conformed to His image, and are chosen to serve as we have heard each of the last two weeks from Ephesians 2:10.

Mary would face tuff days because of this service but we all face difficulties as we serve our God.

God has given us the privilege of service because we are His children.

II-Mary was Thoughtful-

Mary was troubled by the greeting the angel gave her, but she tried to discern, to understand.

Mary faced the difficulty to understand at the coming of the shepherds, and again when she found Jesus in the temple at the age of 12.

III-Mary was obedient to God, even though she did not understand God's plan.

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Servant is one who serves another, who does not live their own will.

When Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant', & 'May it be to me as you have said', the angel left. Mary had submitted to God's plan.

IV-Mary was living Belief-

When Mary arrived at the house of Elizabeth, her aunt said blessed is she who believes.

Even John testified from the womb that Jesus was God.

V-Mary was Worshipful- 1:46

Worship means to ascribe worth to God. It also means to bow to God's will.
Mary praised God for who He was and for what He was doing in her life.

VI-Mary was a faithful follower of God's Law-

Not for salvation.

She Circumcised the baby in obedience to the law;

Named the baby Jesus, in obedience to God's Word;

Followed purification rights and presented baby to the Lord in obedience to the law.

The example of Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:39) was that they performed everything according to the Law of the Lord.

God blessed this couple as they obeyed.