

What Did Mary Know?

I was recently listening to the song, “Mary Did You Know?” and started considering the question of what did Mary know? Luke gives us the most detailed account of Mary and tells us much of what she would have known. John also adds some details.

Mary knew that an angel, Gabriel, had both surprised and troubled her with the greeting, “Hail favored one! The Lord is with you (Luke 1:28).” Gabriel told her that she would bear a son that she would name Jesus and that He would take the throne of David establishing a kingdom that would never end. Mary’s acceptance of God’s will shows His wisdom in choosing her. When she visited Elizabeth, Elizabeth’s greeting and Mary’s response shows that she knew the heavenly nature of her child.

Luke 2 gives the details of Jesus birth. The visit by the shepherds and their sharing of the angel’s proclamation would have further confirmed the divine nature of Jesus to Mary. Luke 2:19 tells us that Mary treasured up all these things pondering them in her heart. I think that the fact she was pondering shows that while she knew Jesus was sent from God, she didn’t understand what all that entailed. This is supported by Luke when he wrote that on the eighth day when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to have Him circumcised and the sacrifice made as prescribed by law they encountered Simeon and Anna. We are told that Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said. Are you not amazed by what you already know?

We are told in Luke 2:40 that Jesus continued to grow in strength and wisdom and that God’s grace was upon Him. We next read of what Mary knew in Luke 2:41 – 52 when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Passover Feast when He was twelve. We are all familiar with how after three days they found Him in the temple amazing those present with His knowledge and understanding. Jesus continued to grow and Mary continued to treasure things in her heart.

We don’t know how much of what was to transpire that she understood but surely her heart was breaking when she was standing by the cross. What mother could look at the torn and battered body of their child and not be moved? Jesus love for her is shown when He sees Mary and John and says in John 19:26 & 27, “Woman behold your son. Behold your mother.” Mary’s reaction is not given but I cannot imagine that it didn’t include tears.

What did Mary know? She knew that God had singled her out to be the earthly mother of His son. From all that is described, she had to know that He was marked for God’s service. I don’t see any evidence that she knew the form Jesus kingdom would take. Nor in my opinion did she understand the crucifixion and resurrection. I think that all evidence shows that Mary was the kind of mother God expected and wanted to take care of His son’s earthly stay. Mary did know many things but probably only her vital part in God’s plan which she willingly performed.

Larry Benson

The Big Surprise

Jude 17-21

One of the hardest verses for me to sing in our songbook is the last verse of “*It Is Well With My Soul*.” So often I feel like I am lying when I sing that verse and perhaps you do as well. Note the words as they are written:

*“And Lord, hast the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall resound,
And the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul” (Emphasis added).*

How often can we say that we are anxious for the return of the Lord? We become comfortable in this world, and because we don’t know anything else we can seldom imagine a place like Heaven, or even Hell for that matter. Jude writes in his short letter to the church:

“But you beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.” (Jude 20-21)

Can we truly say we are waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord? When he returns, will we be excited or scared? Happy or sad? Honestly, sometimes it makes me nervous. However, if we take the advice Jude gives in his inspired letter and are 1) building ourselves up in the most holy faith, 2) praying in the Holy Spirit, 3) keeping ourselves in the love of God, and 4) waiting anxiously for his mercy, we can say with certainty that it truly is well with our souls!

As a Christian, it is important to realize that we belong to a great kingdom that will never fail. One day, Jesus will return to gather the members of his kingdom to himself. You are either in it or out of it. If you are in, do what is mentioned above and anxiously wait for Jesus. If you are out of the kingdom, read these passages: Colossians 1:13-14; Acts 2; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ron Bowersock – at Adam's Place for rehab
Mary Jo Rogers - at home
Janie Harper – at home recovering/knee surgery
Andy Melton – surgery
Brayden Melton – car accident

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown
Rosalie Phifer

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Larry & Geri Melton, Betty Shoemaker, Rosalie Phifer, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Ron Bowersock, Mary Jo Rogers, Melba Young, Nancy Hatton, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Janie Harper

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Opal Jones*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

MORNING POINTE: (Brentwood) Betty Shoemaker

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

The Visitor

BUILDING FUND

We have received donations to the Building Fund In Memory of **Ralph Gilbert, Wilburn Laws & Angela Maraschiello** by the following:

*Regenia Grissom

*Clyde & Martha McCollough

NEWS & NOTES

Men's Breakfast at IHOP Tuesday, December 8th at 8 a.m.

Youth Devo & Caroling Saturday, December 12th

Shut-in boxes – Please prepare and deliver your box by December 19th. If unable to deliver your box, please contact Larry Benson.

In preparation for the **2016 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any corrections or additions. The directory copy is on the counter.



December 6, 2015

Salem Creek church of Christ
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(615) 893-8212

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Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Email:
office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.mdcoc.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Currently meeting at
Middle Tennessee Christian School
100 E. MTCS Rd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Sunday	
Morning Worship	8:30 am
Bible Classes	9:45 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

November 29, 2015

Sunday	AM worship	172
	Bible classes	145
	PM worship	99
	Contribution	\$4,905.15
	Wed PM (11/25 - 78)	
Wednesday	PM Bible classes	92
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	12

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



December 6

Dean Thompson
Regenia Grissom

December 13

Dorothy Stroop
Jim & Pat Davidson

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back to Middle Tennessee Christian School while our new building is under construction.

We were honored by your presence!