



Daily Reflections

December 20, 2017

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month,
the angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin's name was Mary.
And coming to her, he said,
"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
Then the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end."
But Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?"
And the angel said to her in reply,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God."
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

Our Scripture Reflection

How could Mary turn her life over to the Lord so spontaneously and with such trust? On one hand, it was in her genes. She was a descendent of a people known as "anawhim", "people of the land." The anawhim were a people totally dependent on God, that's how they lived and that's how they prayed. Because Mary was full of Grace she surrendered her life completely and immediately to the Lord.

Food for your Journey

It is not an easy thing to be confronted with a message from God. We pray that God will hear our prayers and draw near to us; we pray with ease, and some of us with frequency, but perhaps we pray with such ease and relative frequency because we do not expect any response. Good and faithful people have got along quite well enough with God where he ought to be; the trouble begins when God begins to have more than his usual distant commerce with us.

--Peter Gomes, "Hail, Mary, Full of Grace," Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1998), 10.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Please give me the Grace to surrender my life completely to You. May I learn to trust You in all things. Amen.