

The Announcement to the Virgin Mary



God chose a virgin to be his mother - a full of grace lady, the Lord's servant woman, the dwelling of the Holy Spirit, and overshadowed by the power of the most High.

Mary is the new Eve; the new Ark of the Covenant that God wants his Son to come from.

Despite Mary's holiness and the good news that she received about being chosen to be the mother of God - this choice was going to put a big responsibility on her shoulders. Socially speaking she is a Virgin, she never had intercourse with Joseph, her husband.

Usually when we receive an interesting message like that, our first reaction will be: "Who am I to be the mother of God, to be given this high privilege?" But the surprising thing is that Mary didn't say anything like that. Not because she was proud of herself, but totally the opposite - she was so humble and pure the first thing she asked was about her incapacity to conceive, not being in a sexual relationship with her husband.

How innocent is her answer. It tells us who she really is. It tells us about her immaculate conception, her perpetual virginity, and her ascension in body and soul. All these dogmas that the church has proclaimed describing her are not enough to express the majesty of Our Lady.

As Catholics, we don't worship her, but we don't do less than the Angel Gabriel did himself when he appeared to her. ("Blessed art thou among women") We praise her for being favored by God. We are always against favoritism, but we see here that God shows it. Mary is the favorite one, the apple of his eyes, the new Eve whom he chose for his new Adam. They are going to do what the firsts failed to: be sinless, obey God's commandments, and receive eternal life not only for themselves, but for all of us with them. The first Eve put us out of the paradise, the second one put us in it - without the possibility of being cast out ever again.

We see that in Genesis 3, a cherub - an archangel, with a flaming sword, was placed by God at the gates of paradise after Adam and Eve were banished from it.

An angel, Gabriel, after many years was sent to bring them back in again. The paradise gate was well secured by an angel, however with the archangel Gabriel, the gates of heaven opened again - widely now - not needing the past overwhelming security.

It comes to my mind, how happy we were, we immigrants having the opportunity to enter the U.S. So many people lived so miserably in their country and when the opportunity was open for them to come to the U.S., how happy they were? If this joy is applicable to an earthly open gate, to an opportunity, how applicable is it to a heavenly one, where the joy amazingly exceeds our temporary one here on earth.

God chose simplicity over complexity, humility over arrogance, innocence over shrewdness, the impossible over the possible, and poverty over elegance.

You know in the first creation God created Adam then Eve to be his companion, however in the second new creation he created a woman, Mary, before a man. Jesus, God, needed a mother to take care of him. So, men don't tease your women anymore.

How important is this woman to afford the physical life of the Son of Man, his flesh and blood comes from her, his DNA, genetic information corresponds to her. Who dares to say that she is not important in God's plan of salvation?

Mary needed her son, as he needed her- he needed her as a mother and she needed him, for sure as a son, but more than that, as a savior.

Jesus gave her salvation even before her birth. She was born without original sin, and as an implication, she didn't conceive with pain. Pain comes from sin and because she was sinless, she didn't have pain. God said to the first Eve when she disobeyed: "I will increase your pain when you give birth, you will be in great pain when you have children."

Mary is our lesson of faith today; she teaches us that God is faithful to his promise.

In the letter to the Galatians Paul said: "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant."

Descendant is used in singular, referring to Christ as the One coming from Abraham, genetically as we heard, and also when the angel announced his message to Mary: "The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David."

But let me tell you something: this promise goes back so early to the beginning with the first Eve. Because of the serpent's scheme encouraging Adam and Eve to sin, God rebuked the serpent saying: "I will make you and the woman hate each other. Your children and her children will be enemies. Her son will crush your head. And you will bite his heel."

Jesus is the one who bruised and crushed the serpent's head; this was the first promise.

Mary didn't need the law to receive God's grace. She exceeded it by her model and holiness. All of us are sinners; for this reason we should fully know that by our power we are always called Sinners, but by God's power and through faith in Jesus Christ we are always Winners.

We say with Mary: "I am the Lord's servant. Let everything you've said happen to me."

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