

What Does God Say About Being Pure?

Lesson 41

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-21

Memory Verse

How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9

Introduction

Today's lesson is on purity. What does it mean to be pure? Today we are going to look at two people who were pure—and how God used them.

Luke 1 tells us the story of Jesus' birth. It also tells us the story of Jesus' mother, Mary. She was probably 16 when she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

Luke 1:26-28

Scripture

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

One day, an angel came to Mary. At first Mary was a little scared. She was not sure what the angel wanted. The angel quickly calmed Mary's fears by telling her that God was pleased with her.

Mary was a member of a poor family but was a descendant of royalty. Mary was a descendant of King David. God's promise of salvation was that he would be a descendant of King David (Isaiah 11:1)

Ask: What did the angel say to Mary?

The angel announced that God was with Mary. Mary was from Galilee. Galilee was considered an area that belonged to Gentiles. It was not important that Mary was poor. It did not matter that she was from Galilee because God was with her.

Luke 1:30-33

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Ask: What did the angel say next?

The angel tells Mary not to be afraid. He tells her that he has good news. God's favor is upon her. The mercy and grace of God are upon her. Then he told Mary some incredible news. He told her that she was going to be pregnant and have a son. His name would be Jesus.

Ask: What did the angel say about the baby?

The angel told Mary that the child would be called the Son of the Most High God, the Son of God. Then he told her that God would give the child the throne of his father David and that he would reign forever.

We don't know how much Mary understood. Being a Jew, she knew about the promise of God. She probably knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.

Luke 1:34

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Ask: What did Mary say to the angel?

Mary had no husband. She looked at the angel. She told him that she was pure, a virgin and that she did not understand how this was possible.

Luke 1:35-37

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God.... For nothing is impossible with God."

Today we understand more about the birth of a child and how it occurs.

Ask: What did the angel respond?

The angel told her that it would be a miracle of God. The fact that the Son of God was born of a virgin is a miracle that we do not understand, but we believe it. We believe that there is nothing impossible for our God.

Luke 1:38

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Ask: What was Mary's response?

Mary told the angel that she would do anything that God asked her to do. It was not socially acceptable of a woman to be pregnant and unmarried. In those days, the Jewish laws punished such women (if they were found in sin) by death.

Mary had to trust God. She had to accept that it was ok in God eyes even if others were going to talk about her behind her back. Mary did not ask how people were going to treat her. She did not ask if the angel was going to inform her parents if they got angry. She did not ask if the angel would inform Joseph so that he would not abandon her. She did not ask if the angel would inform the religious leaders so that they would not kill her.

Mary was a willing instrument of God, the consequences were not important.

Discussion

Matthew 1:20-21

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary. Joseph did not know what to think about the news. He knew that he was not the father.

Joseph had options. He could abandon Mary. Joseph could divorce her. He could ensure that Mary was killed. Joseph could also choose to stay with Mary.

The story that Mary told was something they learned in the scripture. It was a promise they were awaiting. Was it possible that Mary would be the mother of the Messiah, the Promised One of God?

Ask: What did the angel say to Joseph?

That night an angel came to him and told him that Mary was having a special child. The angel told Joseph to marry her. And he did.

Application

I Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the LORD.

Ask: What does the Bible say about purity?

The Bible teaches that God is holy. Again and again the Scriptures tell the Jews that they are a holy people. The Scriptures tell them that God is holy. Holiness was very important to the Jews.

Psalm 24:3-4

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

We cannot enter into the presence of God because sin separates us from God. The Scriptures warn us to be pure. The Scriptures taught them that to be able to enter God's presence they had to be clean and pure.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to provide us the way to enter His presence. Jesus was a man just like us. He lived on earth like we do. But one thing was different and set Jesus apart; Jesus never sinned. He was totally clean and pure. He never did anything wrong.

Ask: Why is that so important?

God knew that only a person who was totally clean could die for all the people who were unclean. Jesus was a clean sacrifice. He took all our wrongs and died for them. He took our punishment on Himself.

Application

Ask: Why did Jesus die?

Jesus knew that if He died for us, He would make us clean, if we believe in Him.

Ask: Would you like to be clean?

You must tell God you are sorry for all the wrong things you have done. You must believe in Jesus and all He did for you. Then, ask Jesus to come into your life. Ask Him to make you clean and help you to stay clean. Jesus will come into your life and change it. You will be like a new person, doing things like Jesus would do.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.