

Daily Devotional, December 16, 2020 Mary, Did You Know?

³⁵ *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.*

Many of you have probably enjoyed the lovely song, "Mary Did You Know" written by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene. The words include "Mary, did you know that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect lamb?"

Have you ever thought about the Christmas story from Mary's point of view? Do you think she fully understood, when Christ was born, that He wasn't really *her* baby boy, but rather the sacrifice for all our sins? Did she understand, as she cradled her newborn, that she would have to relinquish Him to God's purposes?

In a smaller sense, we all have to give up the people and things in our lives, don't we? We go through life, thinking that relationships or material items are *ours* to do with as we please.

But in reality, they are only ours to *borrow*. Rather than proprietors, we are actually stewards of our relationships with our children, spouses, friends, and of our cars, houses - everyone and everything in our lives. They are all given to us *on loan*, to be used for God's glory and purposes.

Every relationship we develop and grow, every decision we make, every purchase we make should be made with this in mind.

Take a mental inventory of your relationships. What does it say about your attitude? Do you feel you own your children's future, that you should make the decisions about their careers, rather than them taking their God-given initiative and using their gifts? Do you feel you own your spouse's time? Take a look at your latest bank statement. What does it say about your stewardship of God's resources?

Whatever was to lay ahead, Mary's Luke 1:38 response to the angel was: "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

A bondservant is someone who is "...obligated to serve without wages." (Free Online Dictionary) As people whose salvation is bought by our Lord, we are obligated to serve Him, with no expectation of reward (though He often does reward us). Everything we are, everyone in our lives, everything we *own* - it all belongs to God.

Mary had it right. Do you have it right?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please help us find fulfillment in your presence. Help us to live in such a way that our actions serve as a reflection of your own grace and mercy. Teach us to seek first your Kingdom, in a life that brings glory to your name. Amen.: