

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
would save our sons and daughters?

The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap. →

He will be great

He will be great.

He will be great.

Did you know that your Baby Boy has
come to make you new?
This Child that you deliver will soon
deliver you. →

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
will give sight to a blind man, your baby
boy will calm the storm with His hand?

Did you know that your Baby Boy is
heaven's perfect Lamb?

And now, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you will name him
Jesus.

The sleeping Child you're holding is the
Great, I Am. →

The angel came to her and said, "Greetings,
favored one! The Lord is with you.

Did you know that your Baby Boy has
walked where angels trod? →

When you kiss your little Baby you kiss
the face of God? →

Therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is
Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day rule
the nations? →

He will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the
throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will
reign over the house of Jacob forever, and
of his kingdom there will be no end.

We forget sometimes, how great God's story and purpose is for Mary. How powerful of a figure Mary is.

I think it is okay for us to stop lying about Mary.

Look at our nativity scenes, Christmas cards, prayers, holiday movies, and yes Christmas songs. She is not meek, mild, and mindless.

Perplexed by the words, and pondering the greeting from this angel and the powerful words proclaimed to her.

But she is not dumbfounded – she is determined.

She is strong, independent woman – who needs no man to raise the son of God. Do you notice...she doesn't go and ask Joseph for permission? Or her parents. Or the clergy. She accepts God's favor and impregnation, and goes to tell Elizabeth.

For women in our world – since the beginning of time, have been considered second or third class citizens. Jesus changed that – from the birth, to his treatment and acceptance of women in his life, and even in his death/resurrection as women were the first to be greeted by the savior.

This story of Mary is about baby Jesus – but is also about the empowering of women. God is using women, to bring about the most obvious example of peace on Earth. Front and center – women have status, prestige, equity and equality.

So often Mary is painted as submissive and immature women – a child. But in many literal paintings of Mary and the angel Gabriel, the angel is bowing to the favored one of God. Gabe doesn't hover above her – he recognizes her as the physical cradle, the womb in which Jesus lives, and honors her. This is her call, her mission. She is not domesticated as many other women in the bible. She is the most powerful person in all of scripture next to Jesus.

Mary full of grace – and not the cheap kind. Her grace, her acceptance of God's invitation – is full of boldness, grit, justice, conviction – we hear that in her song.

Theologian Nancy Rockwell says “Mary was wanted by God for her bold, independent, adventuresome spirit; she bears a holy child – for a bold agenda: to bring the mighty down from their thrones; to scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts, to fill the hungry with good things and send the rich empty away.”

God, who brings life from death, and children to those who are barren.

She knows having a baby – yes a most special child, the Messiah – will require a lot of sacrifice and fight - which she finds out early on when the holy family flees to Egypt for protection, and when they lose 12 year old Jesus in the temple (not to mention sleeping with barn animals and smelly shepherds). But she is not reluctant. She is spunky!

She is an adventurer, who risks and dares. As she waits for this messiah, she doesn't sit idle. She proclaims God's clear promise in word and deed.

She is a powerful, experienced, independent, determined woman...mature beyond her years...if she truly was a young teenage girl.

That is how she always was depicted. Luke's phrase for 'virgin' is about her never having children, never being pregnant, than it is about not having sex. But from early on, even that part of Mary's story was twisted by the patriarchs, to show innocence, and to keep control of women.

And thus Mary has been made out to be young and submissive, minimalized in the story by most Christians. She represents far more than just the means by which Jesus gets to earth.

Mary did you know? What a silly question...of course she did!

Who is this Mary, mother of God?

A woman blessed and favored, honored.

A woman who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

A woman determined, free, holy, strong.

A courageous woman who utters the words, Here am I, the servant of the Lord.

Mary is good news for the world.

Mary's gospel, is good news for all of us, because she is the mother of God, a disciple of Christ, a minister to others. And example for you and me.

Because she gave birth to peace, love, hope, and forgiveness long ago, and we all the ones who bear Christ now. Because God stops at nothing to be present with us.