



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Teen Heroes of the Bible Series, Lesson 18

Lesson Title: Mary: Truly Great is Truly Humble

Take Home Point: God does great things through humble people.

Warm-Up:

What does it mean to be humble? In his dictionary, Mr. Webster says, "Characterized by modesty or meekness in behavior, attitude, or spirit; exhibiting deferential or submissive respect; unpretentious." Most people in our culture view it negatively, as a weakness to be avoided. It doesn't mean you don't think anything of yourself, or worse, think poorly about who you are. It means you recognize that your life, traits, and talents are not of your own making, but gifts from the Lord. So there is no room for pride or comparison with others. You can be who you are, ready for God to employ you for the unique purpose only you can achieve. Then he gets all the credit, and you get the joy and satisfaction of pleasing him with his gifts to you.

Read: Luke 1:26-56; 1 Peter 5:6-7

Observation (What happened?):

List all the promises the angel made to Mary.

How did Mary respond to these promises?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What had Mary done to receive the blessing of being the mother of the Savior of the world?

What do you think kept Mary so humble?

Insight:

Mary was not the only person chosen by God who demonstrated remarkable humility. Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Paul, the disciple John, are all examples of people called by God for a specific purpose who were examples of humility in line with the dictionary definition. Abraham, then called Abram, though clearly the leader of the clan, deferred to Lot in choosing land as recorded in Genesis 13. Moses was *called "a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth"* (NIV) in Numbers 12. David was the youngest and least of his siblings and remained humble throughout his life. The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and others all recognized that their word alone was nothing – it was the word of the Lord through them that was truth and power. John the Baptist said of his relationship to the Savior, *"But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry."* (Matthew 3:11 NIV) Paul called himself the chief of sinners; John did not use his name in his gospel. These were people powerfully used by God who recognized the source of their calling.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

In what area of your life is God keeping you humble?

Take a moment to thank God that his work in you and through you doesn't depend on what you have to offer.

Kingdom Quest year 2