

A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

A VIRGIN, WITHOUT LOSING HER VIRGINITY, BECOMES PREGNANT

Luke 1:31 (The Angel Gabriel continues to talk to Mary) “. . .you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.”

Mary was not a robot, programmed by God to passively become a party to the birth of His Son Jesus. When the Angel Gabriel announced to her, she was “highly favored by God” and that “she would conceive and bear a son,” Mary’s response was exactly what any normal young teenage girl would have asked. She asked the Angel, “Since I am a virgin, how can this be.”

Mary knew her elementary biology or health 101 lesson. In her words it is inferred she did not want in any way to break the Jewish purity laws. The Angel then explains the miracle of God that was about to happen. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” Her conception and pregnancy was to be extra-ordinary, supernatural, a miracle. It was to be God caused rather than through the normal intercourse of a man and woman. (See Luke 1:34-35)

Although the Angel does not speak with Mary about the distinction between the Divine and human nature of Jesus, these two natures were in play at this very moment. Mary was thinking only about the conception of a child inside her womb. She had much to learn about the boy that was to be born to her and Joseph. We know she was greatly amazed. For reference read the dialogue between Jesus and His parents in the temple at age 12 in Luke 2:48ff: “When His parents saw Him, they were astonished” and Luke 4:50, “they did not understand what He was saying to them.”

By Mary giving birth to Jesus as a human baby, He was truly a human being. This was the only way that Jesus could keep God’s law in your behalf and after having kept it perfectly to take your sins upon Himself as your substitute to the cross. It was the only way He could pay the debt of your sins in your behalf. If Jesus had been conceived through the usual manner, having a human father would have meant Jesus too would have been conceived a sinner (see Ps. 51:5.) If that had

happened, He could have only died on the cross for His own sins. Because the Holy Spirit caused the conception of Jesus, Jesus had no original sin and since Jesus never sinned while on earth, He was sinless and therefore could take upon Himself your sins. God accepted His substitutionary life and death as sufficient and full payment for your sins. So, the virginity of Mary was extremely critical, significant and important for your salvation.

Prayer: Lord, You did everything necessary for my salvation, including how you insured that Jesus was born a true human being so He could take my sins upon Himself and pay their price. Thank You Lord! In Jesus name. Amen.

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shall be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God." She said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
(LSB 356)