

CHRISTIAN, DID YOU KNOW?

Luke 2:15-19

We love the song "Mary did you know?" because of how doctrinally sound it seems when it comes to putting Mary in her place as the earthly mother of Christ, with lyrics like "Did you know, that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you." But this time let's put the shoe on the other foot. Christian did you know?

1. Mary's early life was a hard, and difficult life:

- She had to bear the potential embarrassment of unplanned pregnancy in her community.
- She had to struggle with how to explain the angel's explanations to her to her own family.
- She faced the difficult task of explaining her pregnancy to her fiancée who would definitely be shocked at her seeming unfaithfulness.
- She had to bear the difficulty of having no room available for a decent birth.

2. The rest of Mary's life was no better than her early pregnancy and birth:

- She had to raise a son who was not even believed in by his own siblings.
- She had to raise a son who would be mocked and rejected by society at large.
- She had to witness the injustice her son suffered, leading all the way to unspeakable physical abuse and execution.

3. Mary's response to all she went through is something every Christian should know:

- That first Christmas, she learned to treasure everything, the good and bad.
- In her later life, the last mention of the Bible of her would be as a founding member of the very first church!

Final Thoughts:

I wonder if Mary felt God had let her down that night or that He had somehow forgotten her in the midst of darkness. Yet from the text, it seems unlikely that Mary felt this way. With shepherds as witnesses to the baby lying in a manger, Mary is said to have "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

God who came to the unfavorable conditions life and death on earth has given us a hope far greater than our despair. As the apostle Paul reminded the Thessalonians: "We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." [1 Thes. 5:5]. Sometimes it is in the dark where we are moved again to the place where the light of Christ can make all things new.

MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS MERRY. FIND YOUR JOY IN GOD.