

THE BABY BOY

1 Samuel 2 / Luke 2

At the age of around 15 or 16, Mary has been betrothed, promised, engaged to a man named Joseph. In those days you spent a year in this betrothal process and during this time your families checked each other out... You spent lots of time together, but none of that time alone.

Premarital hanky-panky was a capital offense... Becoming pregnant during this betrothal time was unheard of, shameful, devastating... And potentially lethal. You WERE legally bound to your husband and he had the right to have you executed for adultery...

The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she has been chosen to bear God's Son... Her life as she knew it was over... Her wedding day plans were ruined... Only 2 people will believe her story: Her cousin Elizabeth, and Joseph...

- She doesn't rush home to a supportive Mother & Father
- She doesn't get a wedding shower... No Baby shower...
- No parties for this girl...

BUT... She DOES have a mentor... She remembers back in her bible reading of a woman who also suffered a shameful experience...

- This other woman had the opposite problem – She couldn't have children... The woman's husband responded to her bareness by marrying a second wife who was a baby making machine.
 - He tells her "Don't worry about having a son... You have me! Isn't having me as good?"
 - NO. She says.
 - The other wife reminds her constantly that she, NOT HANNAH, has had ALL of her husband's kids...
- The barren woman promises God that if He will give her a son, that son would serve in the house of God full time...

- God gave Hannah a son. She called his name Samuel.
- 2 of the 66 books of the Bible are named after him.
- When God blessed Hannah with a son, she sang a song that went like this:

1 Samuel 2:1-10

"My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. **(IE, He has made me strong through all of this)** I smile at my enemies, **(Instead of hating her)** Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. 4 "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, **(Euphemism for many)** And she who has many children has become feeble.

6 "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. 8 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and He has set the world upon them.

9 He will guard the feet **(Steps)** of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail. 10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king and exalt the horn of His anointed."

- You have to wonder WHY Hannah would sing of the King when Israel didn't even HAVE kings at this time... Her son, Samuel would anoint

Israel's first king decades later... But the Author of scripture knew that a teen aged girl would someday take comfort from this ancient song...

- And on the best-worst day of her life, Mary would find out that God's will was better than her will... And that Mary would sing an updated version of an old song... As teenagers are apt to do...
- She would bear the King of Kings...

Listen to Mary's version: **Luke 2:46-53**

46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, (*Magnificat in Latin*) 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

- It makes me wonder what kind of hateful things will be said to Mary.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Mary's attitude is taken from another woman of the Bible who suffered similarly to her, Hannah. Their prayers parallel one another in praise.

Let's look...

Mary: My soul magnifies the Lord (Luke 1:46)

Hannah: My heart rejoices in the LORD (1 Sam. 2:1)

Mary: ... And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (Luke 1:47)

Hannah: I rejoice in Your salvation. (1 Sam. 2:1)

Mary: ... Holy is his name. (Luke 1:49)

Hannah: No one is holy like the LORD... (1 Sam. 2:2)

Mary: He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

Hannah: The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. (1 Sam. 2:7)

Mary: He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. (Luke 1:53)

Hannah: Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. (1 Sam. 2:5)

It appears that Mary wasn't the only fan of Hannah's song... Hannah was also quoted by the great Psalm writer in Psalm 103...

Psalm 103:17-22 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules overall. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

The ANGELS do indeed bless the Lord at His birth... That is recorded in the first part of Luke chapter two...

Luke 2:1-20 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **(Dr. Luke nails down the historical time of Jesus' birth for us - TY)** 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- Don't be guilty of this terrible blunder this year, friends... **HAVE** room for Jesus in your schedule this Christmas!

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- I detect a little resistance in these shepherds... So the angels gives them a sign...

12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloth's lying in a manger."

- Well.... THAT certainly WOULD BE an unusual sight, for sure...
- But, just in case there were still some skeptical shepherds among them...

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

The Shepherds perhaps realized the magnitude of what they had just witnessed...

Victory... Triumph... Salvation... Deliverance... Rescue... All of those blessings were lying in a manger...

Mary would spend the next thirty years pondering... But the Shepherds, uneducated, blue collar, lower class of people – They got it! They immediately began to praise God knowing that the battle for their souls was won!

A Baby Boy had won the battle... I Love the song by "For King and Country" about the **Baby Boy**:

If you told me all about your sorrows
I'd tell you about a cure

If you told me you can't fight the battle
There's a Baby Boy who won the war
The war was won by a Baby Boy...

IF... Like Hannah... AND IF like Mary, your plans and dreams have been
interrupted by shame and disappointment...

Will you magnify the Lord? Will you turn your life over to His will as they did?

I invite you to join us in a prayer of dedicating ourselves to the Lord as we
submit to His will

Let's pray...