

Lessons From People Who Followed Jesus

This week – a new series of lessons which teach us how to savingly follow Jesus Christ.

*The Angel said unto Mary,
“And, behold, thou shalt conceive ... and
bring forth a son, and shalt call his name
JESUS. And he shall reign ... for ever; and of
his kingdom there shall be no end.” Luke 1vs31,33.*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 1v26-38 (The Lord Promises The Saviour)	
Monday	Luke 1v39-55 (Elizabeth and Mary Rejoice)	
Tuesday	Luke 1v56-66 (His Name will be called John)	
Wednesday	Luke 1v67-80 (Zacharias gives thanks to The Lord)	
Thursday	Matthew 1v18-25 (Joseph, engaged to Mary, also told)	
Friday	Luke 2v1-7 (The Incarnate Son of God is Born)	
Saturday	Isaiah 7v14, 9v6-7 (The Saviour Promised)	

Important Questions for us Today: What is Christian Conversion? Am I Converted?

- i) Whoever sincerely believes in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord will be saved – whatever their age, gender, race, background, class, education, occupation, or where, or when they live. Belief involves recognising that we are sinful, and that Christ died on the cross to take our punishment. This causes us to sincerely repent.
- ii) Each Christian testimony of conversion is unique. The Lord calls each of His People personally and they respond individually – not as a group, or even as a family. A Christian must tell others of Christ.
- iii) Nevertheless, the actual way they are converted and saved is always the same for every Christian. We must see ourselves as needy sinners condemned in God’s holy sight. We must repent, believing that God sent His Perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to take our eternal punishment on Calvary’s Cross. **Then we grow in sanctification.**

So, please prayerfully and honestly ask - Am I converted and saved? Is this my personal experience?

Hymn 19v2 - reminding us of Christian Character which forms in those who are converted.

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| 1. God’s precepts are righteous and just,
Rejoicing the heart and the mind;
And all His commandments are pure,
Enlight’ning the eyes of the blind. | 2. The fear of the Lord is most clean,
For ever unmoved has it stood;
His judgements are perfect and true,
In all things most righteous and good. |
| 4. O who can his errors discern?
From hidden faults, Lord, keep me free;
Let pride never reign in my heart,
And clear of great sin I shall be. | 5. I pray that my words and my thoughts
May all with Thy precepts accord,
And ever be pleasing to Thee,
My Rock, my Redeemer, my Lord. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet.

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

The Humility and Faithfulness of Mary and Joseph.

• Introduction to Today’s Lesson.

- God chose Mary, an ordinary girl, to be the mother of His Son, Jesus Christ, and for her to marry Joseph, her intended husband, so as to lovingly care for Him within their family.

• Firstly, Let Us Consider The Benefits of Christian Marriage.

- **God has instituted Marriage.** Only between male and female – to be in love, and union with each other ‘until death do us part’. See Genesis 2 v24 – God created Eve as Adam’s wife.
- **This union brings great joy** when husband and wife both know Christ as their Lord and Saviour, seeking to bring up children in the ‘nurture and admonition of The Lord’.

• The Wonder of How God Brought His Son into the World.

- **God Chose Mary** – Not because she was holier than others, nor a ‘saint’, but because she obeyed God by living in humble obedience to Him. She saw herself as a sinner in God’s Holy sight, in need of a Saviour. (See Luke 1v47).
- **God Sent a Heavenly Visitor** - To tell Mary of His Plan.
 - **Initially, in great humility,** she was troubled in her soul and very afraid.
- **God’s Message To Mary:** (see Luke 1v30-35).
 - *‘Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God’.*
 - *‘Thou shalt conceive ..., and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name Jesus’.*
 - **Mary was initially very concerned.** ‘How could she have a son?’ She and Joseph were not yet married, and they had never come together as husband and wife.
 - *‘The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee ...: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God’.* Sinless - no human father.
- **Mary Humbly and Happily Accepts The Angels’ Words.**
 - **She did not argue, doubt, or proudly boast** – just like all faithful believers in Christ – she showed humble submission to God’s Word, fully trusting in it with full obedience.
 - **She Rejoiced in Song, Praising God – ‘My soul doth magnify the Lord’,** (Luke 1v46-55.). Mary believed in the Old Testament Promises of a Coming Messiah, The Saviour.
 - **We note that there is nowhere in The Bible** that puts Mary in an exalted position between us and God. That would be usurping Jesus Christ’s position as God’s Son.
- **God also sent a Messenger to Joseph. The Promise kept** (See Matthew 1v18-25).
 - **Joseph was also told, ‘Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins’.** Joseph humbly obeys God and marries Mary.
 - **Christ had to be born in Bethlehem** – The City of David. (See Micah 5v2, Luke 2v3-5).
- **God Still Chooses Today – He Calls You To Trust in Christ and Obey Him.**
 - **God calls sinful men, women, and even children** to come to Him in humility, faith, and repentance, to become His People. He overlooks the proud and self-righteous.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, under the inspiration of God, 700 years before Christ was born, *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9v6.