

Deeper Life Notes

The Mary Perspective

“Slowing Down for Reflection”

Luke 1:39-45

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”.....56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

What would the perfect Christmas look like to you?

What is Christmas really about?

Notice how Mary, the mother of Jesus slowed down to reflect.

1. Two visits by the angel Gabriel:
 - a. Zechariah and Elizabeth – crisis of belief?
 - b. Mary – vs. 28-38: confusion, faith and humble submission
2. The Mary perspective: slowing down and reflecting.
 - a. Mary took time, she slowed down and reflected:

Reflect

How do we prepare for Christ's birth?

How do we prepare for His second coming?

How do we prepare for the celebration of Christmas?

b. Mary prioritized 'family':

Prioritize

Who is your 'family'? How do you take time to be with them? How do you make room for your family to be imperfect or to give them grace?

c. Mary shared with others:

Share

The importance of sharing in common, pregnancy with Elizabeth, faith, confusion ...

Discussion Questions to Ponder...family meal time or small groups

- What did you like best about a recent Christmas you celebrated? What did you like least?
- If you could keep only seven Christmas activities (the walnuts in your jar), what would those seven be?
- Does any part of the Christmas celebration ahead cause feelings of apprehension? Can you eliminate or change anything to relieve your fears?
- If you could eliminate an activity or two this Christmas season, what would it be and why?
- What crises seem to occur every year around Christmas? How can they be avoided this year?
- In all of your celebrating, what kinds of gifts can you give to the Lord that will take thought and follow-through?

Reflect • Prioritize • Share