

165 12/23/02 Mary said 'yes' to God. Will your child be ready to say yes?

At this time of the year, amid thoughts of holiday preparations, I always think about Mary. I love to reread the story of the angel telling her that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Her response to the angel shows such complete faith. Her words after Elizabeth greeted her are a beautiful testimony of praise and humility.

Mary was chosen from among many young women. There had to have been something very special about Mary because God would have chosen the very best to mother his baby boy. What made her God's choice?

The scriptures do not tell us much about Mary. We do not know about her parents and siblings. We do not know what her father did for a living. We do not know anything about the daily life of this little teenage girl from Galilee.

We do know that Mary knew the Scriptures well. She demonstrated this in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) after her relative Elizabeth acknowledged that she was carrying the Christ Child. Her song bears similarity to verses from the Psalms, Isaiah and Hannah's song in I Samuel. It is significant that Mary knew the Scriptures so well, because that privilege was usually reserved for boys.

We also know that Mary was pure in heart and body. She had no other agendas than to answer the call of her Lord. And, her virginity was necessary so that the Scriptures could be fulfilled. (Isaiah 7:14).

Finally, Mary trusted God. She asked one question of Gabriel to be sure she understood, and then she said, "I am the Lord's servant...May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38. I can only imagine the questions that I would have had. Mary, on the other hand, exhibited complete trust in God's plan.

There will never be another person with a call like Mary heard. However, we all have a place in God's plans. As parents it is our responsibility to prepare our children just as Mary was prepared. They need knowledge of Scripture, purity of heart and body and a trusting heart. If we can help our children prepare in these ways, they will be ready to say, "Yes," when God calls them to His service.