

12/03/12 - Highly Favored?

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Luke 1:26-38

"Highly favored," the angel said to Mary.

Really?

Mary would have to tell her parents that she was pregnant and that God was the cause! What could she say to her fiancé, Joseph? He was of a mind to start the legal action to "put her away." And what of the sly snickers of her friends? She would bear a child out of wedlock, punishable by death in Bible times. And, three decades later she would weep as she watched her "Savior Son" tortured and murdered.

Highly favored? Most teenage girls would run away screaming. Gabriel's announcement was amazing. Even more amazing was Mary's acceptance. Without Mary's amazing acceptance would we have ever known of the salvation her crucified and risen Son has brought to us?

Mary was and is highly favored. Christians everywhere adore her, some venerate her. All celebrate her Son, "King of Kings, yet born of Mary" (4th-century Liturgy of St. James).

Highly favored, indeed! Sometimes God's call may mean trial, misunderstanding, and grief, but like Mary, you will find that "the Lord is with you." And in the end, it will be worth it all.

Author: Wesley Tracy

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