

Women & the Bible

An illustration of an open book with pinkish pages, and a delicate branch with small pink flowers and leaves, positioned to the right of the title.

A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

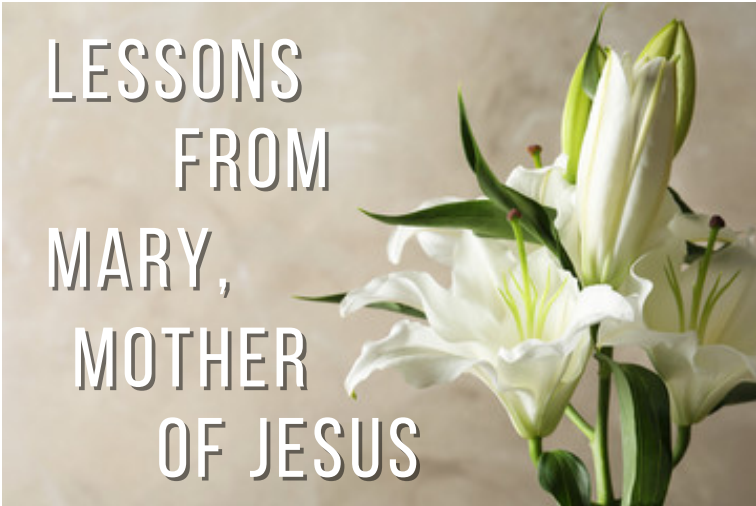
MARCH - APRIL 2022 | VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

The following scripture references are from the New American Standard Version.

SCRIPTURES OF FOCUS:

Luke 1 & 2

LESSONS FROM MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS

A photograph of several white lilies with green leaves and buds, set against a soft, out-of-focus background.

Written by Sherry Rhoades

It is entirely fitting that we pause to reflect and study Mary, the mother of Jesus at this time of year. In spite of the fact that we do not know when the exact time of Jesus' birth was, it is possible that the time of Jesus' birth was in the spring when the sheep and the shepherds would have been outdoors grazing in their fields. In any case, it is always appropriate to learn from the characters of the Bible. We know that the things that are written are for our learning, so without further ado we will begin.



Her humility

And Mary said, "Behold the bondservant of the Lord..." (Luke 1:38) Mary accepted her situation and was submissive to God. How many lessons can we learn from that? Do we resist and kick up a fuss when things are difficult or puzzling to us? Do we blow up when things don't go the way we had planned, especially when we feel we are not at fault? We can learn much from Mary's gentle and quiet spirit, not to mention her faith in God's plan and care for her.



Her obedience

This goes along with her submission and humble spirit. Mary was obedient to God and His holy will. In the modern world, we often believe that everything is up to us, and we use God only as a backup plan. Mary let God control her life without taking credit for her own part of God's plan. If we allow God to control our lives and to lead us, we will develop greater spirituality. We will obtain joy in our hearts. Obedience is not the same as being spineless or unthinking. Many times in Jesus' life, as Mary observed Him, she "pondered these things in her heart." (Luke 2:19) But she was obedient and retained the close ties to God through her prayers and obedience.



Her praise of God

Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth and, through inspiration, recited her song: praising God and glorifying His name for all generations would count her blessed (Luke 1:46-55). She was expressing the blessing that God was bringing, through her, to all generations. She doesn't take thought of her own difficulties that she may face but praises God for allowing her to be part of His holy plan.

What a lesson for us today of complete unselfishness and submission to God's will. We should try to pursue God's will and not our own will in this life and use Mary's example of humility and submission.



Her dedication until the end

Mary, and her sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood nearby the foot of the cross of Jesus not willing to forsake their Savior (John 19:25). Refusing to leave Jesus, even though the situation was humiliating and embarrassing, Mary demonstrated the family devotion we should all feel toward those in our family. With the help of her faith in God, she was able to endure her sorrow and grief to the end. Even though Jesus was her son, He was also her Savior. She was able to see God's plan come full circle even though she did not understand it all. Through the eyes of faith, we, like Mary, can endure the unimaginable with a great expectation of joys to come in eternity.

May we, like Mary, come with our gifts to God in humble and faithful service.

Sherry



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or article ideas to: office@salinachurchofchrist.com