

WALKING WITH JESUS AS PARENTS

Luke 1:38

December 15, 2019

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it so with me according to thy word. And the angel left.

I sat on the front pew of my church late that evening. The moon shone brightly through the window on the painting of Christ behind the pulpit. I had driven home from the hospital where earlier that morning my wife had given birth to a healthy baby boy. I was a first time father. As I looked at the picture of Christ a new awareness of God's love swept over me. I had only known my son but a few hours, but there was a bond already. I knew I couldn't give him up for a world of lost sinners as did our God. It was a price I could never have paid. "O the love that drew Salvation's plan".

As my wife and I sat in the doctor's office nine months earlier, we were scared beyond words. We had only been married six months, we had not planned on starting a family so soon. Could we be the parents this child needed, and give him a good home? I wondered and worried about so many things.

I thought of Mary, as I sat there alone looking at the painting. At least we were married, we had a house we were remodeling and I had a good job. How was Mary going to explain to her fiancée, Joseph, she was pregnant? What were they to tell their families, the community? Mary had said yes to perhaps the second greatest task ever we read of in God's Word. But how would it all work out, a virgin conceiving a child, without being with a man? Who could believe such a tale? Thankfully the same angel that appeared to Mary visited Joseph as well, telling him to have no fear, for this child was of God.

Mary's faith and hope for a Messiah allowed her to become a vessel through which God could perform the delivery of our savior into this world. May we all be so willing to accept what He has for us to do for the advancement of his Kingdom. God uses the most ordinary people to do the most extraordinary. Be on standby.

Prayer: Dear creator God, help us be as willing as Mary when You ask us to answer a call to be of service. You have created each of us for a specific purpose, clergy and laity. Amen.

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