

And Mary Ponders

Whenever we encounter Mary in Luke's version of the nativity, we see that Mary ponders about what is happening to her and around her. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that God found favor with her and that she would carry God's son; when strange shepherds came to visit her new-born son in a manger, away from home; and when two priests in the Temple sing praises about him when he is dedicated, at all these times we find Mary pondering. If faith is about the heart and believing without irrefutable proof, then why does Luke keep telling us that Mary pondered all these things?

I think that we are told that Mary pondered these things because none of it made any sense. Why would God come to a rural, out-state, small town to a young, seemingly insignificant woman who is facing a life of just making it through the day? It makes more sense to be born into a powerful family, one that is already recognized as leaders in the community. It makes more sense to come into a privileged life so not to have it too hard, that the chances of survival of birth are increased. That makes more sense than the way it did happen.

So, why would God do it this way? All throughout the Biblical experience, God had come to the lowly, the insignificant, the almost-forgotten and raised them up, called them and had them do His will. Why would God suddenly change that when God decided to enter human life and live as one of us? But, even in recognizing that God is still acting consistently with the way He had acted throughout history we can still ponder like Mary and see what is so significant about this particular birth for us. I hope that you can find some quiet time over the next couple of days, maybe sit by the tree with just the glow of the tree lights and ponder. Ponder as the lights from the tree push away the darkness of

the room, giving light to where it shines. Ponder about God's love for you and for all people; ponder why God would willingly send His Son to earth to be the sacrifice that we would not be able to make on our own; and finally, how do you show your thankfulness to God for His love for you throughout the year and how do you live in the promises that this baby has given you?

May you have a very Merry Christmas and may God's love for you shine to others throughout the year.

YouTube Links:

Gospel and Sermon: <https://youtu.be/USkbek4xeQU>

Sermon: <https://youtu.be/OtmHOJwpf8A>