

## LIFE OF MARY- Della

So, today, we're studying/reviewing the life of Mary.

Apparently, she's my new crush in the Bible.

Can someone pray for us?

Our father, we thank you for all you've been doing for us, as we learned at your feet this evening increase and bless us. Amen

Abba, we thank you for another opportunity to learn at your feet.

We pray that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened, that we are edified and Jesus is glorified.

Amen!

Amen!

I kinda wish I was taking the moral lessons of this woman. More like, I got to realize a whole lot of things about her lately. She's a one hit wonder!

Asides from thinking of Mary as the mother of Jesus, what else do you know about her?

**A** She was a virgin

**A** She was Joseph's wife † ♀

**A** A lover of God

Okay so one thing I discovered about Mary is that she got through with knowing God at a very young age

The gospels of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament describe Mary as a virgin

According to Christian theology she conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit while still a virgin.

The miraculous sartin took place when she was already betrothed to Joseph.

Studies show that she was just 14 when the angel appeared to her to tell her about her conceiving the Lord.

Yes, I was as surprised as you are now

14 year olds of these days probably just see Henry danger and Power rangers in their dreams

The amazing thing is how she handled this news.

I'm tempted to dive into this.

Many of us just get small light in our study and social media wee nuh hear word.

Or you had an encounter and you start telling every single person you know.

Mary just packed her things and went to see Elizabeth which according to study was a journey for days.

She stayed there for 3 months of which Elizabeth was almost over 80. She stayed there doing what?

Story for another day?

What do you do with all the Lord has said concerning you?

Wait upon the Lord so He'd renew your strength or become a sounding cymbal.

She accompanied Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

The Gospel of Luke begins its account of Mary's life with when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her divine selection to be the mother of Jesus.

According to canonical gospel accounts, Mary was present at the crucifixion and is depicted as a member of the early Christian community in Jerusalem.

According to Catholic and Orthodox teachings, at the end of her earthly life her body was raised directly into Heaven; this is known in the Christian West as the Assumption.

Don't ask me how true this is but I guess this is why the Catholics adore and praise her.

Mary has been venerated since early Christianity and is considered by millions to be the most meritorious saint of the religion. I've heard that she's been to have miraculously appeared to believers many times over the centuries.

Joshua Selman once said that "If you see me in your dream, be sure that your life is about to change".

Sister, if I see you in my dream, what will happen?

How much confidence do we have in Christ and the Spiritual things we have touched in God that we can rightly worth our appearing to someone in the dream.

Or is it your face their using for familiar faces in people's dreams terrorizing them? (I'm joking abeg )

Mary's participation in the processes of salvation and redemption has also been emphasized in the Catholic tradition, but they are not doctrines.

Pope John Paul II's 1987 encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* began with the sentence: "The Mother of the Redeemer has a precise place in the plan of salvation."

The account of Mary's life presented includes her consecration as a virgin at the temple \*at age three\*. (The babe has been Holy abeg).

The High Priest Zachariah blessed Mary and informed her that God had magnified her name among many generations. Zachariah placed Mary on the third step of the altar, whereby God gave her grace.

While in the temple, \*Mary was miraculously fed by an angel, until she was twelve years old\*. At that point an angel told Zachariah to betroth Mary to a widower in Israel, who would be indicated.

This story provides the theme of many hymns for the Feast of Presentation of Mary, and icons of the feast depict the story.

Ejor, 20 and slaying, what are you doing with your life?

Are you slaying out there and slaying in the Spirit?

18 and Legal, I hope you have legalized things for yourself in the Spirit by prayer and confessions in the word of God?

Our mummies in the house, how much strategic plans have we made to bring our children up in the way of the Lord even from the womb?

When Jesus says we'd be transformed from the same image from glory to glory. How submissive have you been to pass through the refiner's fire?

Stop saying you're still young. Mary was given to the Lord at age 3 ejor.

Think about these.

The Orthodox believe that Mary was instrumental in the growth of Christianity \*during the life of Jesus, and after his Crucifixion,\* and Orthodox Theologian Sergei Bulgakov wrote: "The Virgin Mary is the center, invisible, but real, of the Apostolic Church."

I'm happy right now that we have mothers these days who can support their children in ministry but trust me, we have very few of them. The rest of them want to be known as 'Iya lawyer' or 'Iya dokita' not 'Iya Pastor' that is soaking garri as the general idea is that pastors are broke.

How many of us can even comfortably say "Mummy, I'm going to Arab to build up a church for the Lord for the advancement of the kingdom?" and your mum wee nuh slap you fess

The Lord is looking for women who'd bring their families into the kingdom schedule of eternal purpose.

The Lord is looking for a mother like Mary that'd bear her child beaten and crucified for the Lord understanding the principles that the Lord works with.

I remember I once prayed loudly to God that "Let me go barren if my children will not serve you, Lord" and my mum almost finished me. Ah mean, she wants her grandchildren.

But there's a wave that comes to this generation that blesses us with understanding and I pray for everyone here that we're filled with light.

The Lord is looking for hungry people to feed at a time like this.

People who'd stop giving God a time for appointment in their schedule (this is for someone). Stop giving God deadline and checking time. Stop.

And you know what, we have warriors here who would bring their families to the compassion and mercies of Jesus to experience sweet hunger for the banquet.

I like to say that in most families, the women are always the gas. They give the family that fire.

Once a woman is scared, the children join her and the man is alone.

But I pray for us that God would give us the needed strength.

For someone here, God says that He's linking you up to someone who'd go into full time ministry and he's setting you as a pillar of fire around him. He says you shouldn't be carried away by the things your friends will rub in your face. Just follow the Lord.

Thank you Jesus!

Father, we thank you for another opportunity to learn today. Thank you also for the person you used this evening... Help us oh Lord to fulfill that which you have called us to do...in Jesus name we Pray.

Amen

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARY- Omowunmi**

Thank you Father for today.

Please teach us. In Jesus name. Amen

The majority of Mary's story was in Luke 1:27-56

So God needed a human vessel to birth Jesus Christ our Lord and of all Israel, Mary made the cut. One woman.

Y'know this generation needs to see Jesus in plenty ramifications. When God is looking around, can He find your heart on Him? Can he find you? Are you seeking God's kingdom or "all these things"?

For a while I thought Mary was "perfect", y'know, " Holy Mary Mother of God", no sin, no shortcomings. But see...

30 But the angel reassured her, saying, " \*Do not yield to your fear\*, Mary, \*for the Lord has found delight in you\* and has chosen to surprise you with a wonderful gift.

She was afraid. You too think about it, if it was you nko? This proves to me this woman was an "ordinary" woman too. And trust God to pick the most ordinary, the most unlikely. Like Della said yesterday, she was 14!!! I mean! Yet, God chose her.

And the angel had to reassure her that she was chosen and favored.

Now see, from a state of fear, see how quickly Mary switched. After being prophesied to, she didn't doubt a word. She swallowed it hook, line and sinker. C'mon! Imagine a 14year old girl of one the lowly tribes being told she'll birth the savior of the world.

If it was some of us, we'd be telling God, "but I'm not good enough. I'm not strong enough. God, see Angela, she's more holy". Some of us will be so wrapped in the fear of " what will people say?". Some of us, we'll be so afraid of losing bae that we'll start crying "let this cup pass over me" but not Mary. She had confidence in God and in his word. Instead of wondering about all tge above and more she went:

34 Mary said, "But how could this happen? \*I am still a virgin!"\*

Notice she didn't question anything tge angel told her. The only question she had was an info he hadn't passed yet. Her question was not one of doubt but of curiosAmen

And once he explained that last detail, she went

38 Then Mary responded, saying, “ \*This is amazing! I will be a mother for the Lord![ad] As his servant, I accept whatever he has for me. May everything you have told me come to pass.\*” And the angel left her.

See Mary was a woman of faith, trust and total dependence on God.

This single visit from the angel was one that would disrupt her life forever. Imagine what it would mean for her if Joseph refused. Yet, she wasn't even concerned about that. Her own is to do as her master pleases.

I know God is our Father but some of us still struggle with accepting him as Lord. A Lord is your master. You're bound to do as he pleases. Some of us are still so interested in our own plans and visions, forgetting we already gave our lives to a Lord.

If the Holy Spirit tells you today that all your plans were not of him and he has another plan for you, how readily would you accept and rejoice? I pray we get to this place in God where we trust Him enough to trust his interruptions in our lives.

By interruptions, I mean those times we have something all figured out and God says "no".

See again:

38 Then Mary responded, saying, “This is amazing! I will be a mother for the Lord![ad] As his servant, \*I accept\* whatever he has for me. \*May everything you have told me come to pass\*” And the angel left her.

Have you ever imagined if Mary had said "I decline"? What do you think would have happened?

I think we'd still have Jesus but we probably would never have heard of Mary. And even if her story was mentioned, she'd have still settled for a super ordinary life like that of her mates that we don't even know. Or haven't you thought of it that Mary must have had one or two friends or even a bestie but do we know them?

Mary said "yes Lord" to the most unpredictable life one could think of then, not assured of any help or companionship from man. She said yes in complete trust of God.

What are you saying

Luke 2:19 But \*Mary treasured all these things in her heart and often pondered what they meant.\*

Mary was sensitive and paid attention to details. She didn't take things for granted. That was why she could have confidently told the servants in John 2:5 to do whatever Jesus told them to do. She had been paying attention to everything as he grew up and knew without a doubt Jesus capability even when others didn't

As women, we should make it our point to duty to pay attention to events and happenings around our children as they grow and to the things God tell us about them. Don't be the mother that will be forcing her child to be a doctor when God has called him to be a soldier. Be a partner with God in seeing the will of God concerning your child fulfilled. Mary was a partner with God in this and she gave it her all

Lastly:

Those present were Peter, John, Jacob, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, Jacob (the son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), Judas (the son of Jacob), and a number of women, including \*Mary, Jesus' mother. His brothers[b] were there as well. All of them were united in prayer, gripped with one passion,[c] interceding night and day.\*



Mary was committed to Jesus ministry, even after his death. She recognised her son as her Lord. Humble woman she was! Age is not a factor in the spirit please. Let's not be so consumed with "am I your mate?" That we lose sight of what really matters.

Praise Jesus

Thank you Father, help us learn and walk in the light of all we've learnt

In Jesus name I've prayed, amen.