

Our Father's Indescribable Gift of Love

Notes by Franklin

For God **so loved** the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**

John 3:16

By this the **love of God** was manifested to us, that **God has sent His only begotten Son** into the world so that we might **live** through Him. 1 John 4:9

Thank God for His Son — a Gift too Wonderful for words!

2Cor 9:15 NLT

Now the **birth of JESUS CHRIST** was as follows: Matthew 1:18

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth

- The angel **Gabriel** is the LORD's messenger. This awesome, mighty angel must have been fearsome to behold.
 - Daniel was frightened and fell on his face
 - Fear gripped Zacharias when he saw Gabriel

(27) to a **virgin** engaged to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the descendants of David; and **the virgin's name was Mary**.

- According to the custom of the time, Mary was a young teen. And their engagements were a more binding agreement than our engagements. And the marriage may be a year or more away.
- This was the Announcement Fulfilling the prophecy of: **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **a virgin will be with child** and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
- This declares that it will be a **miraculous birth** as a virgin cannot be with child without a man.
- It also declares the **moral character** of Mary that **qualified** her for the Lord's mission. Our moral character and how we live our life can **qualify or disqualify** us for certain ministry.
 - 1Corinthians 9:24-27 . . . I discipline my body and make it my **slave**, so that . . . I myself will not be **disqualified**.

- o 2Timothy 2:19-21 if anyone **cleanses himself** from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, **useful** to the Master, **prepared** for every good work.
- o Ezekiel 44:10-18 The Levites who went far from Me . . . shall bear the punishment for their iniquity. **They shall be ministers for the people . . . but they shall not come near to Me** to serve as a priest to Me . . . **But** the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, **shall come near to Me to minister to Me**; and **they shall stand before Me** declares the Lord God.

(28) And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, **highly favored** one! The Lord is with you."

- To be chosen as the mother of the SON OF GOD, the Messiah, she was indeed highly favored.

If the Lord is with you, anything is possible!

- o And, **HE IS ALSO WITH YOU** and said: **I will never leave you nor forsake you.** Hebrews 13:5

(29) But she was **very troubled** at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of greeting this was.

- The word means "wholly disturbed." And with good reason on seeing this awesome, mighty angel.

(30) The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found **favor with God.**

- Twice now Gabriel has declared Mary's **favor** with the LORD.
- Mary's character had placed her in **highly favored position.**
- The most **valuable** thing you can do for your life is to **have favor with The LORD.**

Jesus said: John 8:29 He who **sent Me** is **with Me**; He has not left Me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**

Ephesians 5:6-10 Therefore do not be partakers with them; (8) for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light** (9) for the fruit of the Light consists in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**, (10) **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**

Colossians 1:9-12 . . . pray . . . that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (10) **so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,** bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

(31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall **name Him Jesus.**

- Now she is certainly perplexed, being that she is not married.
- And, she is told what her Son's name is to be.
- Notice, His FATHER named Him.

(32) He will be **great** and will be called **the Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; (33) and He will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**, and His kingdom will have no end.

- **the Son of the Most High.** God first revealed himself to Abraham as the Most High God
- "**Son of**" means literal **biological** and **legal** offspring as referred to in John 1:14 **the only begotten from the Father**
- God will give Him **the throne** of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever
 - Fulfilling the Promise to David: Your **house** and your **kingdom** shall endure before Me forever; your **throne** shall be established **forever.** (17) . . . so Nathan spoke **to David.** 2 Samuel 7:16-17
 - And Fulfilling the prophecy of: **Isaiah 9:6-7**
For a **child** will be **born** to us, a **son** will be **given** to us;
 - The "child" had a beginning, at birth. But the "Son will be given" declares the Son already existed.

And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be **no end** to the increase of His **government** or of **peace, on the throne of David** and over His Kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with **justice** and **righteousness** from then on and **for evermore.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

- **He is** the long anticipated KING of the Jews, the **Jewish Messiah**, the "Son of David," who will reign over the Kingdom of God.

(34) Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since **I am a virgin?**"

- Mary, was very puzzled, and asks a legitimate and clarifying question. The only way a child had ever been conceived required a man and a woman.
- It is good to ask clarifying questions to prevent us from pursuing our assumptions as to how the Word of the Lord will come about.

(35) The angel answered and said to her, "The **Holy Spirit** will come **upon you**, and the **power** of the **Most High** will overshadow you; and **for that reason** the **Holy Child** shall be called **The SON OF GOD**."

- Answering her question, this is how you will know Mary, you will become pregnant **without a man**.

When the **Holy Spirit** comes **upon** you, the **power** of the **Most High** can bring about whatever He desires – new birth, a new creation, healing, new eyes, new organs, prophecy, new language, . . . whatever He desires.

There is a Spiritual Analogy here:

We were impregnated by "the incorruptible seed" of "the living, abiding, Word of God" implanted in us (1Peter1:23). And when: "the Holy Spirit came upon us and the power of the Most High overshadowed us," for that reason the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ was birthed within us and we became "a son of God." "God is love." **Love was birthed in us.**

1 John 3:22-23; 4:15-17

- The **virgin birth** is first revealed in **Genesis 3:15** when the LORD is speaking to the serpent in the garden.
 - **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed**
 - A Woman does not have "seed." Seed is from man and therefore the LORD is declaring that **a man is not involved** in begetting this man, The LORD JESUS CHRIST. And therefore **HE is a Holy Child**.
 - This is **Very Important** because should he be born from man's seed he would inherit sin just as all the rest of us have.

- Sin was in Adam and spreads to all those who are born from him, after him, with an earthly father. This **was not** the case with Jesus Christ. Adam was not His Father. HIS FATHER was THE ALMIGHTY, THE HOLY ONE and therefore HIS SON is HOLY.
- Therefore The LORD JESUS CHRIST **did not** have a “sin nature.” This qualified **Him alone**, to be [the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!](#) (John 1:29) As they were taught with their Passover lamb: [Your lamb shall be an unblemished male.](#)

All of this Declares Clearly and with Certainty that:

- ❖ JESUS CHRIST is [The Son of God](#), **DIVINE**.
- ❖ Born a MAN, from a woman, and therefore **HUMAN**.
- ❖ **A child was born to us, a son was given** (Isaiah 9:6).

The mystery of the incarnation - the divine becoming human

- He [shall be called The Son of God](#), clearly clarifying who the FATHER of this Holy Child is, and the miraculous **virgin birth** of JESUS CHRIST

Without question, great is the mystery of godliness 1 Tim.3:16

Consider this:

John 3:35 & 5:20 [The Father LOVES the Son . . .](#)

- What is the degree of love that The FATHER has for His SON? It is beyond our comprehension!

John 3:16 [For God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son . . .](#)

- Knowing how much HE loves HIS SON . . . how much does HE love HIS people in the world???
- Hint – value is determined by the price one is willing to pay to purchase ! ! !
- So **how Valuable are YOU ???**

(36) "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

- Mary was young, Elizabeth was old. Young and old must know and realize they are equally favored and qualified for the Lord's ministry.
- John the Baptist also had a special birth. Elizabeth was barren until the LORD allowed her / caused her to be with child by Zacharias.
- The LORD can intervene in any of our affairs to bring about His purposes, His desire, His will.
- We should take note that along with Mary, Zacharias and Elizabeth were both **righteous** in the sight of God, walking **blamelessly** in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. Luke 1:6

We should live likewise. 2 Timothy 2:21-22 *Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. (22) Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart*

Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

(37) "**For nothing will be impossible with God.**"

- This is a great comfort, encouragement and faith builder. But it should not be a surprise when you consider all that He has created and brought into being. He indeed is omnipotent and sovereign.

(38) And Mary said, Behold, the **bondslave** of the Lord; **may it be done to me according to your word.** And the angel departed from her.

For a teenager facing misunderstanding and rejection from her family, her betrothed, and her village, knowing that for a young woman to bear a child out of marriage, could potentially result in stoning (Deuteronomy 22:22-24).

And yet, **without hesitation, she agrees** and "*offers her body as a living and holy sacrifice which is her accepted worship to God.*" (Romans 12:1) She unknowingly agrees to a life of great Joy, and great distress and agony in seeing her Son rejected by many and brutally crucified.

Here is GREAT FAITH. TOTAL TRUST. TOTAL COMMITMENT to the LORD's will for her life. **A high mark for all of us to aspire and reach.**

Mary demonstrates the true meaning of HIS Lordship over her life: **I am the Lord's slave** which literally translates the Greek δούλος (in English – doulos).

There is a difference between a **slave** and a **servant**.

- A **servant is not owned** by the one they serve
- A **slave is owned** by their master.

The Greek words make this distinction very clear.

The Greek words meaning **servant** are: παιδός and διακονός - servant or deacon. The Greek word for **slave** is: δούλος.

There is a beautiful lesson here if we carefully translate these words.

Slave (δούλος) refers back to **Deuteronomy 15:12-17**

If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, then he shall **serve** you six years, but in the seventh year you shall set him free. . . . (16) It shall come about if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' **because he loves you and your household, since he fares well with you;** (17) then you shall take an **awl** and **pierce it through his ear** into the door, and **he shall be your servant forever** (thus a slave). Also you shall do likewise to your **maidservant**.

This is exactly what Mary says to the LORD. **Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.**

The word Mary uses is the feminine of doulos – **a female slave**

She is committing her life to His will, which is the true meaning of **Your Kingdom come, your will be done**. (Mt.6:10; Luke 11:2) To truly pray this prayer, you are committing yourself not as servant but as the LORD's slave.

(See: Romans 6:22; 1Cor.7:22; 1Peter 2:16 where doulos is used)

This is TOTAL COMMITMENT to The LORD regardless of my will, my desires, my wants, my plans, whether it is easy or difficult, even unto death.

We all use the word "**Lord**" and with varying degrees of meaning and commitment. **Luke 6:46** brings this out: **Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**

Mary was saying: "regardless of my embarrassment or suffering, YES LORD"

If we ever say "**No**," or knowingly disobey, then HE is NOT LORD. He can still be Savior by true belief, but not LORD by obedience.

We must decide: is my allegiance to the Lord or to my own desires? Am I His servant and can say "No" whenever? Or, am I His bond-slave for life?

Sometimes it takes great turmoil in our souls to come to the place of submission, but come to it we must. **Even before Jesus was conceived, Mary was faced with the decision: Will I obey and make way for this King? Or Will I take the easy way that avoids difficulty and pain?**

To her everlasting credit, Mary's response of faith is what our response should be: "I am the Lord's bond-slave. May it be to me as you have said."

This Attitude of Total Surrender and Obedience is in THE FAMILY.

Mary's SON did the same.

And being in The Family we are admonished to do the same.

Philippians 2:5-11 **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (or held on to), (7) but emptied Himself,**

- Emptied, abased, humbled Himself
- Gave up His Position, His Throne, His Glory, His Rights. He did not give up His Deity - who He was.
- The LORD does not ask you to give up who you are, but to become all you were created to be by Emptying self and Obeying HIM.
- This is the model of how life is lived in the Kingdom of God.
Emptying yourself to serve and honor others.

taking the form of a **bond-slave** (Greek- δουλοσ)

- Same word Mary used.
- Jesus is the example of what is possible for us **if** we also become **HIS bond-slave**. Jesus said: "**I only do and say what the Father tells Me.**" (John 5:19,30; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10)

and was made in the likeness of men.

- From the form of God to the form of man . . . how limiting . . . how humbling.
- Became one of us. The example of a missionary (1Cor.9:19-22)

(8) Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming **obedient to the point of death**, even **death on a cross**.

- HE who was LIFE was willing to die . . . to come under the power of satan, sin and death. And we hear Him cry three times: **My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.** (Mt.26:39) **The Total submission of a bond-slave.**

(9) **For this reason**, God also **highly exalted Him**,

Whoever wishes **to be great** among you shall be your **servant**, (διακονοσ) (27) whoever wishes **to be first** shall be your **slave** (δουλοσ) (28) **just as** the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many. Mt. 20:26-28

and bestowed on Him **the name** which is above every name, (10) so that at the name of JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue will confess that **Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God The FATHER.**

This Philippian passage fulfills the words of the Prophet **Isaiah 50:5-7**
The LORD GOD has opened My ear; (the pierced ear of a slave) **and I was not disobedient** nor did I turn back. (6) **I gave My back** to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and **spitting** (Mark 15:15-21). (All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2Tim.3:12) (7) **For the Lord GOD helps Me** therefore, **I am not disgraced;** therefore, **I have set My face** like flint (Luke 9:51), **and I know that I will not be ashamed.**

- Disgraced? Ashamed? Who is He concerned about? Himself? Others? . . . Or His FATHER?
- Who are we concerned about pleasing??? Our self? Our friends? . . . Or the LORD?

Mary said, Behold, the bondslave of the Lord;

- Total Commitment to the LORD's will for her life.
- Completely giving up all her plans and dreams as to how her married life would be.
- Not knowing what Joseph would do. Her life was interrupted.
- And yet, without hesitation she declares:
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

Thanks be to God for His **indescribable Gift!** 2 Cor.9:15

For God so **loved** the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

The Gift & Giving of His Son Jesus Christ Continues to this very day.

To as many as **received Him** (God's Gift of Love), to them **He gave** the right to become **children of God.** John 1:12

WHAT AN AMAZING GIFT !

Every good and perfect **gift is from above**, coming down from the Father James 1:17

The GIFT OF HIS SON – The Gift of The HOLY SPIRIT – The Gifts of the Spirit - The Gift of Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness, Peace . . . The Gift of Every Breath and Every Beat of our Heart - All that we have – All that we are – ARE GIFTS TO US from OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

- AND -

We have all been commissioned to be GIVERS of GOD'S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT of LOVE to Others.

This is what Christmas is all about. This is what Life is all about.

HIS Indescribable Gift of LOVE

Enjoy His GIFT and His Gifts to You.
And GIVE His GIFT and Gifts to Others.