

Mary-Mary

Sermon:

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Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-19

Luke 1:26-38 Explained

Deuteronomy 28:1-7;15-20 "Blessing and Warning"

The birth of Christ starts out with two religious people of Israel. 588 generations have passed since Abraham. And still, on and off this Israel are religious people in captivity. From a female perspective things are even tougher.

What would be the status of women in the Western world today had Jesus Christ never entered the human arena? One way to answer this question," writes Dr. Schmidt, "is to look at the status of women in most present-day Islamic countries. Here women are still denied many rights that are available to men, and when they appear in public, they must be veiled. In Saudi Arabia, for instance, women are even barred from driving an automobile. Whether in Saudi Arabia or in many other Arab countries where the Islamic religion is adhered to strongly, a man has the right to beat and sexually desert his wife, all with the full support of the Koran. . . . This command is the polar opposite of what the New Testament says regarding a man's relationship with his wife. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus, 'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.' And he added, 'He who loves his wife loves himself.

Jesus loved women and treated them with great respect and dignity. The New Testament's teaching on women developed His perspective even more. The value of women that permeates the New Testament isn't found in the Greco-Roman culture or the cultures of other societies.

In ancient Greece, a respectable woman was not allowed to leave the house unless she was accompanied by a trustworthy male escort. A wife was not permitted to eat or interact with male guests in her husband's home; she had to retire to her woman's quarters. Men kept their wives under lock and key, and women had the social status of a slave. Girls were not allowed to go to school, and when they grew up they were not allowed to speak in public. Women were considered inferior to men. The Greek poets equated women with evil. Remember Pandora and her box? Woman was responsible for unleashing evil on the world.

The status of Roman women was also very low. Roman law placed a wife under the absolute control of her husband, who had ownership of her and all her possessions. He could divorce her if she went out in public without a veil. A husband had the power of life and death over his wife, just as he did his children. As with the Greeks, women were not allowed to speak in public.

Jewish women, as well, were barred from public speaking. The oral law prohibited women from reading the Torah out loud. Synagogue worship was segregated, with women never allowed to be heard.

Betrothal

The period of engagement preceding marriage; betrothal was a binding contract established between two families and sealed by the exchange of gifts. During this period the couple did not live together; sexual relations with each other at this stage was regarded as equivalent to adultery. Betrothal describes the relationship between God and his people and between Jesus Christ and the church.

Betrothal and the choice of a spouse

Wives were often chosen by parents for their sons Genesis 21:21 It was usual practice for the groom's parents to choose his wife and arrange the wedding. See also Genesis 24:4; Genesis 38:6

Suitable husbands were sought by parents for their daughters Ruth 3:1-4 Naomi, in the role of parent, assumes responsibility to find a husband for Ruth. See also Judges 1:12-13; 1Samuel 18:17,21

Betrothal following the couple's wishes Judges 14:1-4 Sometimes the man chose a prospective bride and his parents negotiated the marriage. See also Genesis 34:1-4; Genesis 24:57-58; Genesis 26:34-35 Esau chose a bride against his parents' wishes.

Betrothal preceded marriage

Genesis 29:21; Deuteronomy 20:7 A betrothed soldier was exempted from military service until after his marriage. Deuteronomy 24:5

An exchange of gifts accompanied betrothal

The bride-price Genesis 34:11-12 This gift, which was given by the groom to the bride's family as compensation, sealed the marriage contract. See also Genesis 24:53; Genesis 29:18,27; Exodus 22:16-17; Deuteronomy 22:28-29; 2 Samuel 3:14

The dowry 1Kings 9:16 The dowry was a gift from the bride's father to the bride and/or groom. Servants were given to the bride as a dowry: Genesis 24:59; Genesis 29:24,29

Judges 1:14-15

Betrothal was treated as marriage

Deuteronomy 22:23-24 Though there were no sexual relations within the betrothal period, the commitment was regarded almost as seriously as marriage and infidelity of a betrothed partner was treated as adultery. See also Genesis 19:14 The men betrothed to Lot's daughters are described as his "sons-in-law";

Matthew 1:18-20 Mary's pregnancy during betrothal left her open to the charge and consequences of unfaithfulness.

What have we learned?

- Marriage and an engagement was no joking matter.
- The couple was under a strict legal system
- Both families played a part in the engagement
- A agreed fit for the two people

Questions:

1. Mary Mary what's going on?
2. First knowledge, blessing or cursing?

Mary's birth to Christ, and her first mother's day. And some women think they have it bad.

"Happy Mother's Day"

The Plan Of Salvation

Acts 2:36-47 will get you into Christ. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

The first century believers in Christ put on Christ. They didn't leave it at belief. They knew it was a new doctrine. Acts 5:28 and follow that doctrine with its command for salvation. Study conversions in the book of Acts and you will see that they:

- They Heard
- They Believe
- They Repented
- They Confessed
- They were Baptized

Will you do the same?! Amen

- Do you know what you believe, why you believe it, and where it is taught in the bible?
- Do you know your Bible and where salvation is taught for the remission of sins?