

the SCRIBBLERS

By Queens For the Cross

6th Edition

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No More Room

By Anna Masonic

"Do not judge my story by the chapter you walked in on."

- Unknown

Perhaps the thought of Christmas brings the scent of steaming gingerbread and frosty pine or the sight of a crackling fire and presents under a sparkling Christmas tree. Maybe you shivered, thinking of the cold, gracefully falling snowflakes and your friend pouring a rather large quantity of snow down the back of your snowsuit. Some of you may have even thought of the birth of Jesus. But did you think of the innkeeper that denied Mary and Joseph a place to stay? Probably not. Though he might seem like an insignificant character in the event that later bloomed into what many of us now call "Christmas," his story holds a valuable lesson.

Do you imagine the innkeeper as rude? Luke 2:7 states that Mary, "gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." In truth, he was honest and had no ill intent when turning them away. Anyone of us could have been placed in his position and we might have done just as he did.

It is important to remember that his role in this story is part of God's plan. Isaiah prophesied in 53:2-3 that Jesus would be *"despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."* Max Lucado, an American author and minister, said, "the mother and father of our Lord were pushed out and rejected. Even before

he was born, our Lord was rejected and turned away. The words 'no room for you' followed him throughout his life...there was just no room for him anywhere."

Without knowing it we can become just like the innkeeper. Our lives can quickly become filled with other things that will never fully satisfy our 'hunger.' God "...is still being crowded out. With all the festivities and all the busyness, he is often just an afterthought. Instead of a place of honor at this time of year, Christ is often shoved into a corner" (Max Lucado). He came to find room for us. Have you made room for him?

Why Did God Choose Mary?

By Sarah Schumacher

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.."

- Luke 1:26-27

Why would God choose Mary? She was a young, unmarried girl, and her fiancé, Joseph, would look like a fool because of this. And what about the Israelites' king? Did they expect Him to come as a baby? When God makes a promise, He will keep it. But it's not always in the ways we think He is going to.

Luke 1:30-32 says "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:"

God picked Mary for a *huge* responsibility. She had no way of knowing this previously, and she couldn't prepare for it, or even have time to stop and think when God chose her. But despite everything, she was willing, and she was humble. She

didn't fight the angel by telling him that she couldn't, and she didn't take all the credit for herself of being the chosen mother. She simply accepted God's plan, not hers, and did her best to follow it.

Luke 1:35:37 says "And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ... For with God nothing shall be impossible.' "

Mary, when asked why she was chosen, this is what she was told: that she would have God's power and nothing was impossible with Him. So many things *seem* impossible in our lives. We can't focus on that fact, but on the opportunities that God gives us to obey Him and fulfill His will. Especially then, we must put aside our own ideas and humbly follow what He gives us to do. The Christmas story is the reason for our hope, and it wouldn't be quite how we know it if Mary hadn't been willing to follow everything God asked of her. When we do what God asks, He gets the glory and we get the blessings.

Psalm 84:11 says "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

All scriptures taken from the KJV Bible Version.

If Jesus Lived Today -- Prologue

By Erin Short

A modern-day retelling of Jesus' life that will continue throughout the coming weeks.

"I am *not* marrying you," Joe said quietly, plainly sad rather than angry.

Mari, in tears, objected. "Joe, I swear, I've been faithful to you! This is all part of God's plan! He's given me a son, and -"

"I don't care, Mari. You cheated on me before we're even married, and now you're just lying about it? As if it was 'part of God's plan'? That's just *awful*. I'll call you when I find a divorce lawyer. I'm . . . I'm truly sorry it had to be this way."

"Joe, please -"

"Goodbye, Mari."

* * *

It was very late that night - around three o'clock in the morning - and Joe was in a very restless, fitful sleep. He loved Mari, his fiancé - soon to be ex-fiancé - very much, and to say that his heart was broken was a tremendous understatement. He just couldn't believe what Mari had done. And so out-of-the blue.

All of the sudden, Joe had a dream. Not the kind that you forget moments after you wake up. No, the kind that sticks with you your entire life.

In the dream, Joe stood in a blank, otherwise dark room with a blinding light above him, that he noticed - with a scream - was actually an angel.

An actual *angel*.

"Joseph," the angel said in a soft voice, though Joe couldn't actually make out a face. It was all light. "Don't be afraid to marry your fiancé, Mari; she's done nothing wrong. As she said, the Lord God has given her a child. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him *Jesus*, meaning *the Lord saves*, because He will save everyone from their sins."

Very suddenly, Joe woke up and, in his struggle to turn on the bedside lamp, crashed to the floor. *Mari's telling the truth*, he thought, too happy to express. *God is working through us. God is working through us!*

Immediately, Joe grabbed his phone - after successfully turning on the lamp - and called Mari.

"Please pick up, please pick up," he said nervously, pacing back and forth.

Miraculously, she did.

"Oh, my gosh, Mari, will you *please* forgive me?" he practically spewed into the phone. "I just . . . I can't explain it . . . I had this dream, and -"

"Wait, you believe me?" Mari clarified, practically in shock.

"Yes, Mari, I believe you. I had this dream, and an angel told me that you're going to have a son . . . and . . . and we're supposed to name him *Jesus* - oh, what did the angel say it meant? 'The Lord with us'? 'The Lord is good'?"

" 'The Lord saves,' " Mari corrected. "You forget I studied Hebrew last term."

"So, you'll still marry me?" Joe asked softly.

Mari laughed. "Yes, I'll still marry you. Just imagine - one day, *our son is going to save the world!*" *going to save the world!*"

Just Like Gabriel

By Talia Michel

"I'm an imperfect messenger but the message is perfect."

- Ron Paul

Gabriel was God's heavenly messenger, so we see him multiple times in the Bible. He brought the news of a son to Zachariah and his wife Elizabeth, told Mary she would bear God's child, gave understanding of a vision to the prophet Daniel, announced the birth of a savior to the shepherds, and so on.

Look at Luke 1:19 "The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news." We see Gabriel telling Zachariah that he and his wife will have a son, and he will prepare the world for Mary's child, Jesus Christ. As it says in Luke 1:26-27, "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

And just like Gabriel is God's heavenly messenger, we are God's *earthly* messengers, and just like Gabriel brought the good news of a savior being born, we're here to spread the good news of Jesus dying on the cross for us, to forgive us, and to save us.

About the Authors

Queens For the Cross is an organization of young Christian women that strive to "break the cultural standard" and make a difference in their community by spreading the Word of God *before* they reach adulthood. Support them by subscribing to *The Scribblers* -- or join them in their mission today!

Contact us at info@queensforthecross.com with any questions or comments (the more the better!), and feel free to submit an article (make it roughly half a page long, and make sure every major statement is backed with a Bible verse) to be published in the next edition!