

## Sermonnotes: Sunday, December 23, 2007

Notes to better help you understand Sunday's sermon text

Text: Luke 1:46-55

Title: Christmas Through Mary's Eyes

The first thing to remember is that Mary had very young eyes!

She was very likely between 14 and 16 years of age when she discovered herself to be with child. In and of itself this would not have been unusual. In the ancient world people moved directly from childhood to adulthood – the word 'teenager' did not come into usage until the 1940's. Mary's situation was special because of the circumstances of her birth.

But these circumstances are what make her the one person who better than anyone then or since comprehended the magnitude of the incarnation.

In the first place, she knew she had never been with a man. Others could and did question her story. Early in the church's history, pagan opponents of the church circulated the story that Mary had gotten into trouble through a Roman soldier named Pantera. But Mary knew differently. She knew the baby in her was a miracle.

Secondly however even Mary needed a word of revelation to understand how the miracle had come about. And God graciously sent a messenger to tell her and to remind her that 800 years earlier Isaiah had prophesied that a virgin would conceive.

Finally, Mary would watch this little baby grow up. And knowing all that she did, she still wondered, doubted whether she had gotten the story right. It took her son's resurrection from the grave to convince her that this miracle child was indeed Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Perhaps better than any of the others we have considered during this Advent season, Mary most closely mirrors our experience. The evidence she had, we have. And that evidence convinced her – and note this carefully – convinced her 'mind, body, spirit and heart' that Jesus was the Savior. And that is biblical faith, *the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen* (Hebrews 11:1).