



Mary

Hebrews 11:35 *“Women received back their dead, raised to life again.”*

This is another instance where Paul does not mention our topic by name. In-fact I don't think Paul is talking about New Testament people at all. He is talking about the greats of the past. Yet, I feel that you could go there with Mary. Who had great faith in the Bible? Mary is not mentioned by name but she did receive someone back from the dead: Jesus. She did believe an angel, by faith, and did what God asked of her.

Mary is someone of great faith. Throughout the whole story of Jesus, Mary is in the picture. Her faith is tested in the beginning when angels approach her. To be pregnant by non-conventional means needs great faith. Here is the stunning part. Most of the Biblical characters are afraid of angels. They are not fluffy nice looking angelic beings. Angels are scary creatures. Yet, Mary stands before Gabreil boldly. Mary is a ponderer. What does all this mean to her? Yet, through all of this she never gives up. Mary is not chosen to be the mother of the Christ by accident. By her faith, God chose her.

How do we know she has great faith? For starters she has to believe. This virgin woke up pregnant in a culture bound to the marriage bed. God did this. Mary has to deal with an unbelieving family. At times her own children question who Jesus is. Yet, the pondering Mary knows. This woman had to make the most of it without a husband at some point. How long did

she go as a single parent? How to explain the carpenter's son? The boy who knows too much. This is the Mary of faith. John does not mention her by name. Yet, at the wedding feast Mary calls out Jesus to do what he does. She entices him to preform his first public miracle. By faith!

There are a lot of Mary's in this Jesus story. I bet there could be 10. Who is in and around all of them? It is Mary the mother of Jesus. Mary is at the cross. Mary is at the first miracle and with her children. Jesus makes sure his mother is taken care of. By faith she goes with John. We do not here of Mary again after that. The Catholic religion has risen Mary to great heights. Maybe even higher than Jesus. Why? I feel it is because of her faith. She believed Gabriel. She believed God. I believe she understood Jesus. Her prodding at the wedding feast confirms that.

Paul may have intended to mention a widow in Isaiah's story that had a child die and was resurrected. Yet, I can't help but believe he may have meant multiple women: one like Mary. Did she see the risen Christ? Mary just disappears as Joseph did. Yet, her faith lives on. Although Mary plays a small role in the gospel story, yet she plays a big role in our hearts. Everyone loves Mary. She mothered the Son of God! By faith she survived a tough start and a tough finish with Jesus. Yet, by faith she lives on in Biblical history as a great saint.

Jerimiah 32:27 ""I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?

I can't imagine hiding a pregnancy from your fiancée. It is crazy that God put her in such a unbelievable spot. Yet, Joseph believed her. He believed God. I think God likes doing things the hard way. Why? Two reasons. One is that nothing is too hard for God. A Red Sea in the way, no problem. He split it in two. People wanting to kill Jesus, no problem. God sent them to Egypt. I'll make a virgin pregnant, no problem. God will pick two people of great faith.

Was Mary tormented at the cross. There was her son nailed to a cross. He was going to die. Yet, she knew what God had asked of her. Did she think she failed? Yet, I suspect Jesus told her. In the show (the Chosen) they hint that they believe Jesus did tell her. She knew he could do miracles. She had met angels. Mary is said to have pondered much. How much did she know? Yet, by faith she did it! This woman did it without a husband. She did it with scrutiny and criticism. Yet, by faith, she did! Maybe Paul isn't talking about Mary in Hebrews 11. However, if he had made a second list, who would be on it? Would it be Peter, Stephan, Nicodemus, or Mary? We know that by faith there are plenty of people that God asked to do hard things. Things that have inspired us all throughout the ages. Possibly a young girl named Mary.