

What Mary Could Not Do

“Then the angel said to her,
‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for
you have found favor with
God’” (Lk. 1:30)

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4/7/2011



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There are many godly women in the scriptures but Mary holds a special place in our hearts because it was her of whom the Savior came. However, some have built up ideas and exaggerations about this godly woman that are purely unfounded. In this short study, we want to simply look at some things that Mary could not do.

1. Mary could not be the source of origin of the Son of God.

In other words, Jesus Christ’s existence did not begin with her. He existed before her as is implied by the statement that He is the “root” and “offspring” of her ancestor, David (Rev. 22:16). In fact, Jesus was in the beginning with God (Jn. 1:2). Further, He is the One who created all things. He is the “firstborn of all creation,” an expression that is defined by Paul as, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For** by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” “Firstborn” is an expression of position and authority. As such, Jesus is the “beginning of the creation of God” (Rev. 3:14). John does not say that He is in the beginning of created beings, but rather the beginning, that is, origin, source and governor of the creation of God. It is in this vein that the word is to be applied to Christ (cf. word usage “magistrates,” Lk. 12:11; “power,” Lk. 20:20; “rule,” 1 Cor. 15:24; “principality,” Eph. 1:21; “rulers,” Titus 3:1; “first,” Heb. 2:3; 5:12; “domain” Jude 1:6).

2. Mary could not ignore her maternal instinct. As the Lord’s mother she cared very deeply about her Son. When He had lingered in Jerusalem, He had become separated from her. She and Joseph were worried sick as to where He had gone. They searched everywhere from a day’s journey away among their relatives and then back to Jerusalem frantically looking for their Son for three days. Finally, they found him in the temple. Jesus is likewise found today in the temple, the church of Christ. But while others were astonished at His understanding and His answers, she was perplexed with distress that she could not find her Son all this time. “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously” (Lk. 2:48). Any parent could empathize with her. This would be the natural response of any loving and concerned mother. She would have equally been as emotionally upset as any mother would be when she stood before the cross watching her firstborn bleed to death (Lk.

2:35; Jn. 19:25). The cross and your salvation was not only costly to Jesus, but it was also to His mother. What we sometimes complain about as being “too hard” or “too difficult” in relation to doing the work of the church and representing Christ on earth embarrassingly pales in comparison to such a cost. Such statements that come out of the mouth of Christians only shows an admission of frail discipleship where other things are competing with Christ, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Mk. 8:34; “other things” see Mk. 4:19).

3. Mary could not disrupt the Lord’s mission. After the episode, Jesus responded to her, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” (Lk. 2:49). Our Lord always places what is most important **first**. His business was to be about His Father’s business. When He was older, and after He appointed for Himself apostles, some of his relatives came to apparently try to rescue Him from fanaticism, “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind’” (Mk. 3:21). We find Mary and her sons outside seeking for Him a few verses later to which He responds, “...‘Who is My mother, or My brothers?’ And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother’” (Mk. 3:33, 35).

4. Mary could not be a mediator between God and mankind. She was in need of a savior as any man or woman is (Rom. 3:23). As she stood before the cross, she stood before her Lord and her Savior. Men have elevated Mary to a status which she never knew nor would she be willing to accept. “And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior’ (Lk. 1:46, 47). Praying to and through Mary is not only vain, but idolatry and insulting to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Peter stated boldly with the Holy Spirit, “...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “No other name,” means “not any other name!” The name of Jesus excludes the name of Mary, Mark, Matthew, Peter and Paul (cf. 1 Cor. 1:12, 13). “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Tim. 2:5, 6).