


Mary:
Faithful and Available

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2025-12-14



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What does it say?*

- From Luke 1:26-38, describe Mary's background, status, and circumstances.
- What does the angel Gabriel say about Jesus' identity and mission (v. 31–33, 35)?
- What does Elizabeth highlight about Mary's faith when she blesses her (vv. 42–45)?
- In the "Magnificat" (v. 46–55), what attributes and actions of God does Mary recount and praise?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- Mary calls herself a "bondslave". Does the Bible legitimize slavery? Why or why not?
- How does a right view of God's might, holiness, mercy, and sovereignty shape a believer's behavior? Since a "too small view of God" limits obedience, describe the relationship between theology and action.
- What is the significance of Mary valuing obedience to God over protecting her own reputation, especially within the context of her shame-culture?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- What are situations in which you typically shrink back from obedience out of desire for others' approval?
- In what areas of life do you sense God calling you to be more available to Him? What practical steps would demonstrate that availability this week?
- What spiritual disciplines could you use to enlarge your view of, and obedience to, God?
- What concrete action should you take (in church, home, or workplace) to reflect Mary's availability?
- Are you a "bondslave" of Christ? Why or why not? Should you be? Are you willing?

Sermon Summary Key Text: Luke 1:26-55

As we continue our study of the Christmas story, we're focusing not on the story itself, but rather on the persons who give life to the story. What kind of person does God use? What qualities is God looking for when he wants a task accomplished? Two thousand years ago God found such a person: Mary. We read about her in Luke 1:26-55. From Mary's life we discern the kind of person that God delights to use.

I. God greatly uses people who are available and who choose to trust him. Because Mary made herself **available** to God, the course of human history was irrevocably changed! Mary was the Lord's servant (v. 38)—whose servant are you? God does not need us. His purposes are not hindered by our refusal to cooperate with him. But he desires to use us. Will we let him? We don't need to be persons of great ability or status. God is not looking for people with great ability; he is looking for people with great availability! Consider Jesus' original disciples: common laboring men with no professional training beyond the rudiments of knowledge necessary for their vocation. None of them were wealthy. By any standard of sophisticated culture, they did not measure up. They were impulsive, temperamental, easily offended, and had all the prejudices of their environment. When viewed from a human perspective, they all seem like a poor choice with which to start a religious movement. Yet they were available and teachable—just the kind of people God delights to use! Consider David: so insignificant that his father left him out of the line-up when Samuel was looking for Israel's future king (1 Samuel 16:7, 11-12). Mary, like David, was available and wanted to be used by God. How about you? Are you ready, willing and available? Have you put yourself at God's disposal? God wants to use you to impact your world, and he will, if you'll let him.

We also must learn to **trust** God, as Mary did. After all, it is difficult to serve a God that you do not trust. Mary questioned neither the angel's appearance, nor his message (1:45). God's greatest servants are ordinary people with extraordinary faith. Hebrews 11 profiles men and women who took God at his word and ordered their lives accordingly—often at great personal cost. Faith is focused on the eternal, rather than the temporal. Faith operates in the realm of the unseen, not the seen. Faith often compels us to make choices between what God has stated to be true, and what our culture or circumstances declare to be true. Those choices reveal the vitality of our faith. Will we trust God as Mary did?

II. Mary's spiritual life challenges us to expand our view of God and to pursue his purposes. Mary had an accurate, an exalted **view of God**. Mary's God was mighty, holy, merciful, sovereign, and faithful (v.49-55). Is your God too small?! Do you view God as a policeman, a managing director, a pale Galilean? Is he just a meek and mild old man? Such limiting perceptions are crippling to the Christian life. We are pygmy Christians because we have a pygmy God; the people who know God will display strength and take action (Daniel 11:32). Those who have great thoughts of God will attempt great things for God, so how can we enlarge our view of God? Remove from our thoughts of God limits that would make him small, and then compare God with powers and forces that we regard as great.

We need to pursue God's **purposes**, not our own reputation. In making herself available to God, Mary accepted the hushed whispers and suspicious looks. Obedience to God was more important than her own reputation. Some of us will never be greatly used by God because we value man's approval more than God's (John 12:42-43). If we like to be liked too much, we will never be used by God. Our culture will accept us—as long as we don't take our faith too seriously. You might be labeled a religious fanatic and get cancelled! Christianity is tolerated as long as we don't let it affect our life too much. If you are serious about walking with God, not everyone will understand. Some may even oppose you. But if you want God to use you in this generation—and he wants to—then you must seek God's approval above man's, making God's glory a higher goal than your own reputation.

1. Like Mary, determine to be a person of great availability. Find a place to serve here at TCC.
2. Trust God to be true to his Word. Let the Bible, not culture, shape your values and view of reality.
3. Enlarge your view of God by meditating upon his Word. Start with Isaiah 40 (see "Digging Deeper").
4. Make God's glory a higher goal than your own reputation.



Triangle Community Church
and the
**Institute for
Biblical Counseling
and Discipleship**



present

2026 Regional Care and Discipleship Training

Whether you're a new believer in Christ or well-seasoned in ministry, this training will help equip you for fruitful discipleship in your church and community. Join us!

Who will benefit?

- ✓ Every church member who wants to grow as a disciple
- ✓ Small group leaders, elders or deacons entrusted with the care of the church family
- ✓ Any Christian who wants to sharpen their skills in caring for others
- ✓ Those seeking Phase 1 training for the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC)

Topics Include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ✓ How People Change | ✓ God's Design for Marriage | ✓ Anxiety |
| ✓ Peacemaking Principles | ✓ Marriage Conflicts | ✓ Temptation |
| ✓ Anger and Abuse | ✓ Divorce and Remarriage | ✓ Mental Illness |
| ✓ Depression | ✓ Parenting | ✓ and more! |

What is the format?

- Videos, group discussion, and live counseling observation
- Four Saturdays together as a cohort, plus three hours per month of individual online content
- Monthly lunches included
- Only \$99 for the whole training package

When and where will it meet?

Triangle Community Church (4216 Kildaire Farm Road, Apex 27539)

8³⁰am to 4⁰⁰pm on Saturday **January 17, February 21, March 21** and **April 18, 2026**

Questions?

Just e-mail Pastor Dan Clement at:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

**FAQ, Complete Info,
and Registration here:**



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*Mary had an accurate view of God. A small view of God dooms us to fretting.
Let's use "Five Question Bible Study" to explore the glory of Yahweh...*

Monday— Study Isaiah 40:1-2, where Yahweh comforts his people.

Tuesday— Study Isaiah 40:3-5, where we learn to prepare the Way of Yahweh.

Wednesday— Study Isaiah 40:6-8 to learn about our frailty vs. the permanence of Yahweh's word.

Thursday— Study Isaiah 40:9-11, where Yahweh's coming as Shepherd-King is heralded.

Friday— Study Isaiah 40:12-26, and learn of Yahweh, our incomparable Creator and Sovereign.

Saturday— Study Isaiah 40:27-31, to learn how Yahweh strengthens the weary who trust him.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]