

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

May 2015

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## **Could God Have Chosen You?**

He was searching for just the right one. He was looking for someone with a tender and loving heart. One who was thoughtful, compassionate, and totally unselfish. She needed to be someone whose heart and soul were totally dedicated to God and who would be faithful in raising her children to love and serve the Lord. This couldn't be just any woman; she needed to be very special because He was choosing her for an extraordinary job – to be the mother of the Savior of the world.

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. What a tremendous privilege – and heavy responsibility. As He searched the hearts of the women at that time very carefully to find just the right one to raise His son and our Savior, what must He have seen in Mary's heart? We are given some insight into her character when the angel Gabriel first appears to her. He greets Mary as the “*highly favored one*” and tells her that she is “*blessed among women*” (Luke 1:28). To emphasize the point again, he tells her that she “*found favor with God.*” (Luke 1:30) Gabriel is letting Mary know that she was not just randomly selected for this undertaking, she was specially selected. God was choosing just the right one in choosing Mary as Jesus' mother.

We see Mary's humility, unselfishness, and great faith revealed to us as she listens to Gabriel's message and willingly embraces God's plan for her. She may not understand everything about it and probably has many questions swirling about in her head, but the bottom line is in her answer as she says to the angel, “*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*” (Luke 1:38) Mary loved and trusted God. She believed in Him, and was totally submissive to Him with a heart full of faith.

We see the normal concerns of a mother in Mary as Jesus grew up. She was naturally distressed and anxious when Jesus went

missing for three days when he was twelve years old. (Luke 3:41-50) She trusted in Jesus' wisdom and judgement as the Messiah when she appealed to him for help at the wedding feast in Cana (John 2:10), and she stood at the foot of a cross bearing her son watching in pain and agony as her mother heart broke.

There is not much more information we are given about Mary, but I think it is safe to say that we could make a few assumptions about her based on the very fact that God chose her. I think she probably would have fit the mold of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 pretty well. Would you picture Mary as industrious or lazy? Would you think she provided well for her household or just did her own thing leaving her family to fend for themselves? Do you think she spoke with kindness and gentleness or was shrill, bossy, or harsh? Could the heart of her husband Joseph safely trust in her or was he always uneasy as to what she was doing behind his back? Would Jesus and his siblings have been able to “*rise up and call her blessed*” (Proverbs 31:28)? Was Mary a woman who could be praised because she feared the Lord? I think the answers to all of these questions are obvious. Mary's sterling character, beautiful heart, and dedicated faith are blatantly obvious to us because God chose her. Was she perfect? No, but she was pliable. She was willing to be molded by God into what He wanted and needed her to be. God was not interested in a mother for His son who was selfish, lazy, unkind, ungrateful, or lukewarm in her faith. He chose a woman who had all of the qualities that first and foremost made her a pleasing daughter to her heavenly Father. Once that foundation was established in her heart, it just naturally followed that she would make an excellent mother for Jesus Christ the Lord.

My question is – could God have chosen you? Could God have chosen me? If God had been looking for a mother for his son, the Savior of the world, during this time in history, what would He see in each of us? Could we have passed that crucial test? Do we have a beautiful character like Mary? Do we have an unselfish heart like hers? Most importantly, do we have a strong faith and unwavering dedication to God like she had? Could God have chosen you?

~Heather Pryor

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*“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. “ ~Proverbs 31:30*

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**Ladies Bible Class – Saturday, June 6th at 9:00 a.m.** Please bring your Bible, book, and a breakfast item to share. We will be studying Lesson 3 of “Impossible”.

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## **Search the Scriptures** **“Mothers”**

Match the mother on the left to her child(ren) on the right.

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ 1. Tamar     | a. Samuel               |
| _____ 2. Bathsheba | b. Obed                 |
| _____ 3. Eunice    | c. Manasseh and Ephraim |
| _____ 4. Elizabeth | d. Athaliah             |
| _____ 5. Jochebed  | e. Dinah                |
| _____ 6. Jezebel   | f. Perez and Zerah      |
| _____ 7. Asenath   | g. Solomon              |
| _____ 8. Leah      | h. John the Baptist     |
| _____ 9. Ruth      | i. Timothy              |
| _____ 10. Hannah   | j. Moses                |

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# *Happy Mother's Day*

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# RECIPE CORNER

*"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15*

## YOGURT BERRY PARFAITS

2 cups plain or vanilla yogurt	1 cup fresh raspberries or
1/2 cup heavy cream	chopped strawberries
1 tsp. vanilla extract	granola or chopped nuts
1 cup fresh blueberries	(optional)

Mix yogurt, cream and vanilla extract together. In small parfait glasses, layer yogurt, raspberries, yogurt, and blueberries. Finish with a dollop of yogurt on top and sprinkle with granola or chopped nuts if desired.

## LEMON ROSEMARY SCONES

3 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup heavy cream
2/3 cup sugar	1 egg
4 tsp. baking powder	2 lemons
1/4 tsp. salt	Leaves from 2 rosemary sprigs
1 cup cold butter, cut in pieces	5 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup milk, plus more if needed	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place flour, sugar, baking powder and salt into a sifter and sift into a large bowl. Blend in butter with a pastry cutter. Measure cream in a cup and crack in the egg. Zest 1 of the lemons and add to the cream. Finely mince the rosemary leaves and add half to the cream. Whisk the cream mixture then drizzle it into the dry mixture, stirring gently with a fork. Roll out dough on a floured surface to 1/3 inch thick rectangle. Use a pizza cutter to cut 12 squares then cut each in half diagonally. Transfer to parchment lined baking sheets and bake for about 18 minutes. For the glaze: Combine powdered sugar, milk and the juice of one lemon plus the zest of the second lemon. Whisk together and add the rest of the rosemary. Dip each cooled scone into glaze and place on rack to drip dry.

Yield: 24 scones