

#1 – Hope Has A Name

Pastor Shawn Peterson

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**December 6, 2020**

**The Hope of Mary**

1 - What was Mary hoping for?

2 - What did Mary get instead?

3 – What does a focus on Eternal Hope produce?

**1 - What was Mary hoping for? Normal Hopes**

Luke 1:26-38

**26**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

**29**But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30**And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**34**And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

**35**And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**36**And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37**For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38**And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Normal Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a preferable future.**

Disappointment of Shifted Hope

**God desires to exceed your normal hopes with Eternal hope.**

**2 - What did Mary get instead? Eternal Hope**

“The Bible teaches us that hope is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future.” John Piper

Luke 1:32-33

* He will be great
* Son of the Most High
* He will sit on the throne of David
* His reign over the house of Jacob will be eternal
* His kingdom will be eternal

**Eternal Hope has a name … Jesus**

1 Colossians 1:15-17

**15**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**16**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17**And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Jesus Christ can give Eternal Hope because He is the Eternal source of everything.**

**3 – What does a focus on Eternal Hope produce? Joy and Freedom**

Luke 1:46-50

**46**And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**48**for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
**49**for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.  
**50**And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

Joy and Freedom can be yours by focusing on Eternal Hope in Jesus

Reflection Questions on Today’s Sermon

1. How have your normal hopes shifted in 2020?
2. Discuss how eternal hope changes your perspective on this year and this last month of the year.
3. What can you do differently this week to experience eternal hope?

Growth Group Questions

We are currently in between sessions. The winter session runs **1/10/21 – 03/20/21.**