

## Mary And Joseph Were Real People

Luke 1:5 to 56: 'In the days when Herod was king of Judea there was a certain priest whose name was Zachariah of the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron ... (Verse 26) Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth in Galilee, to a girl never having been married; a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. Gabriel came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you before all other women!" But when she saw Gabriel she was greatly troubled at what he said and wondered what such a greeting might mean.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And listen! You will conceive and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name (Yeshua) Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and there will be no end to His Kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?"

Then the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, and so the holy Child which shall be born will be called the Son of God. And listen! Your kinswoman (aunt or cousin) Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing is impossible."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to Your Word." The angel left her. Mary arose and hurried into the hill country to a town of Judah. She went to the house of Zachariah and, entering it, greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ... (Verse 56) Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her own home'.

Luke 2:4 to 51: 'Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David to be enrolled with Mary his wife, who was about to become a mother. While they were there the time came for her delivery, and she gave birth to her Firstborn Son. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn ... (Verse 16) The shepherds hurried and found Mary, Joseph and the Baby lying in a manger. When they saw it, they made known what had been told them concerning this Child, and all who heard it were astounded at what the shepherds told them but Mary was keeping all these things in her heart' ... When the time came for Mary's purification and the Baby's dedication, they came according to the Law of Moses and brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord; as it is written in the Law of the Lord: Every firstborn male shall be dedicated holy to the Lord. They came to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons ... (Verse 33) His father and mother were marvelling at what was said about Him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed; destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul so that the secret thoughts of many hearts may be revealed ... (Verse 39) When they had done everything according to the Law of the Lord, they went back into Galilee to their own town, Nazareth'. Twelve years later Mary was still guarding all these things in her heart.

Mary is the Gentile version of the name Miriam, but Mary was a Jewish woman so her name would have been Miriam. It would be impossible to include in this Bible study, everything that was written about Mary in the New Testament, because there is so much written about her. From reading the above verses, we can see she was from the priestly tribe of Levi; a descendant of Aaron. She would have been about sixteen when Gabriel visited her to inform her she was the most blessed woman on earth. Mary was a humble and obedient girl who immediately accepted what Gabriel told her and she allowed God to overshadow her so Jesus could be conceived. Mary did ask how it would be possible to have a Child without ever having been intimate with her future husband, but Gabriel explained that to her. Mary and Joseph were not intimate until weeks after Jesus was born. 'Now the birth of Jesus occurred like this: When His mother Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit ... Joseph had no union with Mary as her husband until she had borne her Firstborn Son; and Joseph called His name Jesus' (Matthew 1:18 & 25).

It is clear that Mary and Elizabeth had a close relationship, but the scriptures do not tell us whether Elizabeth was Mary's aunt or cousin or in what way they were related. The verse just says she was Mary's relative or kinswoman. Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth before Jesus was born. That was where Gabriel visited Mary. Like most young couples starting out, Mary and Joseph were not wealthy. All they could afford to sacrifice at Jesus' dedication were two birds. That certainly does not mean they remained poor, as we will

see later. When the verse says there was no room in the inn, that does not mean they could not afford to pay for a room, it means the inn was fully booked.

A manger was dry feeding trough. Jesus was born in a large lower storey room or cave, used as a stable where animals were kept warm, dry and safe during the winter nights. The animals slept on hay and had dry feeding troughs (mangers), plus separate troughs for water. A shepherd and his family lived in the upstairs rooms so warmth from the animals would naturally rise and warm the family's living area during the cold winter months. In the warmer months, the stables could be used for guests. It was a normal way of life in those days. The Bible says the weather was warm enough for the shepherds to have their flocks outside at night, and the shepherds themselves were sleeping outside under the night sky, watching over their flocks of sheep (Luke 2:8). So the manger would have been scrubbed clean ready for the next winter season. The place where Jesus was born would not have been a dirty, animal infested barn. It was possible the owner of the house cleaned his stable out ready for the influx of people coming to Bethlehem to register their names. Mary and Joseph were not alone. When the shepherds arrived, they were still staying in the place where Jesus was born – and there were other people there too, who marvelled at what the shepherds told them (Luke 2:18). If these things had been said to strangers, news would have travelled quickly, but if what the shepherds said, was said to Joseph's family, they would have taken little notice, and what Jesus said later in His ministry bears that out. "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives and in his own house" (Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4). So although the people marvelled at what was being said about Jesus, as relatives, they did not honour it. We know that Mary had no baby clothes with her, because the angel made a point of saying Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:12). If swaddling cloths had been the norm, they would not have needed to point that fact out to the shepherds, however, swaddling cloths were nothing spectacular. They were merely long strips of cloth used as the modern equivalent of bandages. Not many babies are wrapped in bandages to keep them warm. We know that Mary, Joseph and Jesus moved to a house at some point within the following two years, because when the wise men from the east visited, they went to the house (Matthew 2:11).

There were many amazing things said about Jesus when He was a baby. Mary did not seem to react or say anything, but guarded everything deep in her heart as though she could never share what was being said. She kept the promises and prophecies about Jesus a secret; secrets that were not revealed until after Jesus died and rose again, and the Gospels were written. That could have been because, although Jesus' conception was supernatural, from then onwards, everything was so normal. Mary could also have kept those things to herself because she was fearful of what the consequences would be if she talked about them. Herod had already tried to have Jesus killed before He was two years old. Mary seemed to never have spoken about the things said about Jesus, before or after he was born. Even her younger sons had no idea Mary had been told Jesus was the Son of God or that He would one day be a King. We read their angry reaction to Jesus performing miracles during His ministry; 'Now the Feast of Tabernacles was drawing near, so His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples may see the works that You do for no one does anything in secret when he wishes to be conspicuous. If You must do these things show Yourself openly and make Yourself known to the world!" For even His brothers did not believe in Him' (John 7:2 to 5). Mary kept so quiet about the events surrounding Jesus' birth, even Jesus' cousin John the Baptist, was never told. He said he did not know Him as the Messiah until Jesus revealed Who He was (John 1:31). John's mother Elizabeth knew, but John didn't know. When Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (Luke 2:35), he did not mean she would die by the sword. He meant watching the terrible torture and death of her Son would be so heartbreaking, it would be like having a sword pierce her soul. Mary could not have understood what Simeon meant. She just kept it all to herself. As a mother, it must have torn her heart to pieces to watch what the Romans did to her beloved Son. She was forced to watch as Jesus was humiliated, spat on, tortured then crucified, and there was nothing she could do to help Him.

Jesus was Mary and Joseph's Firstborn (Luke 2:7). They had at seven or eight other children after Jesus was born. They were named Joseph Junior nicknamed Joses, Yaaqov (James), Judah (Jude) and Simon, and there were 'all the sisters' indicating more than two sisters (Matthew 13:55 & 56; Mark 6:3). When Jesus was murdered, Mary watched from a distance with other women, one of whom was her sister Salome – the wife of Zebedee and mother of John (the Apostle) and James (who was later killed with a sword (Acts 12:2); not the brother of Jesus). Later, Mary stood right beside the cross of Jesus (John 19:25). After the Sabbath day, Mary went with other women to sit at the tomb of Jesus and anoint His body for burial, but it was too late – He had already risen. Mary then went with two other women to tell the apostles. When Mary went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, Mary Magdalene and Salome was with her (Mark 16:1) and another woman named Joanna (Luke 24:10). The scriptures say Joanna along with Susanna ministered to Jesus during His ministry (Luke 8:3). Joanna and Susanna could possibly have been two of Jesus' sisters because these

women were active in Jesus' life. In those days, single women did not follow single men around the countryside to minister to him unless they were related. Salome bought the spices for His anointing, so it seems these women were closely related to Jesus. Only the closest family members were the ones who tended to a dead body. There were three women named Mary at Jesus' cross; Mary Jesus' mother; Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene. There was another woman identified as the sister of Jesus' mother Mary. Since we know that Salome was there, we can see that Salome and Mary were sisters. That would make James and John, the sons of Zebedee, the first cousins of Jesus. It would then make sense for Salome to ask Jesus to put his cousins on either side of His throne in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 20:21). It also makes sense that just before Jesus died, He committed the care of Mary into the hands of His cousin John (John 19:26 & 27), and John being Jesus' youngest cousin, would explain why Jesus loved John so much and why they were so close (John 13:23; 21:7). Why Mary's four sons were not given the care of Mary instead of their cousin John, is not explained in the scriptures. Mary had four sons and John had his mother Salome, so why Jesus did that is unclear, but probably because at that point of time, none of Jesus' younger brothers were believers. Far from being an only child, Jesus was part of a large, close family. After Jesus rose from the dead, Mary and Jesus' brothers all became believers. 'All of these with their minds in full agreement devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers' (Acts 1:14). Jesus' brother James went on to write the book of James; Judah wrote the epistle of Jude. Simon became extremely zealous and was named Simon the Zealot. Eldest brother Joseph was never mentioned again.

Jewish women were not suppressed, as many people believe they were. The role and position of women was better than some women experience even today. Jewish women bought, sold and owned property, made their own contracts and had a say in all aspects of life. For example, Miriam worked side by side with Moses and Aaron. Esther was prepared to die to save her people. Ruth the Moabitess who converted to Judaism was an ancestor of Jesus. Deborah was a judge. Huldah was a prophetess. Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah all had great spiritual understanding. Girls attended school along with the boys. The Old Testament says the daughters of Zelophehad were well educated and through their knowledge of the Law, they changed the course of history for Jewish women in regards to women receiving their rightful inheritance. They could not have achieved that if they were downtrodden and uneducated. Seven of the Old Testament prophets were women. As part of their Jewish culture, women have always been respected. Although the obligations and responsibilities of women differ from men, they are no less important for the good of the overall community.

Judaism recognises the importance of a cohesive family. We only need to see the breakdown of the family and thus society in our age to see how important the role of women and mothers are. The Jewish culture understands the role of women can never be underestimated. From their ancient culture through to today, the home has been the centre of religious life; the building block of the family for the children and thus for society. Jewish teaching has always been God's ideal, and that is a home filled with love and peace where children can grow up and learn to love Him. The sanctity of the home was not to be violated by disrespect, hypocrisy, violence, drunkenness or adultery. This strong cultural foundation enabled the dispersed Jewish people to continue worshipping God after their temple was destroyed in 70 AD. Study of the Old Testament and prayer was part of normal home life. God instructed parents to teach their children about Him just like Abraham did (Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9 & 10 plus 6:7). The synagogue was an integral part of Jewish life centuries before Mary became a wife and mother. Mary and Joseph did a remarkably good job of teaching Jesus when He was a child. Jesus' knowledge of the scriptures was especially surprising to the Jews, because Jesus never attended school. There were schools in those days, but apparently, Jesus never went. 'The Jews were astonished and said, "How is it that this Man is so learned in the Sacred Scriptures when He was never educated?"' (John 7:15). The job of teaching Jesus from a young child about the things of God, fell upon the shoulders of Mary and Joseph, so most of what He learned, He would have learned from His parents; and since we read that he did not attend school, He was 'home schooled'. Jesus knew how to read and write, so they would have taught Him that too. In view of the fact that Jesus knew so much at such a young age, Mary and Joseph must have been excellent teachers of God's Word. This is consistent with the scriptures when Jesus was shown to be extremely knowledgeable in the Hebrew scriptures at just 12 years old. 'After three days they (Mary and Joseph) found Him (Jesus) in the temple, sitting amongst the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His replies' (Luke 2:46 & 47). As a Jewish boy, Jesus was very well versed in the scriptures. That prepared Him for His earthly ministry.

Ancient Jewish women were no different to women today. They loved their cosmetics, perfume and jewellery. Marriage was considered the most important way of life. It cemented families and that filtered out

into society. The Jewish marriage took place in two stages. The first stage was the betrothal, akin to an engagement today. The fathers of the bride and groom would agree to the marriage. A young couple were not forced into marriage, but their families had to agree. That would stop any young person making a rash decision they could regret later. It was impossible to elope. Family and friends would witness the initial betrothal, like we would an engagement party, and it was sealed when the young couple shared a cup of grape juice. However, the big difference between an engagement and betrothal, is an engagement is not legally binding, but a betrothal was absolute. A couple wishing to change their minds after the betrothal had to be divorced. They were considered husband and wife and seeing another person was out of the question – it was considered adultery. Even at this point, the couple were never to be alone and always had to have a chaperone. Physical purity was paramount.

After the betrothal, the bride prepared herself and her bridesmaids for the wedding feast. Wedding gifts were chosen and set aside. The groom would prepare a location for the wedding and a home for his future wife and family. The preparation traditionally took up to a year. The second stage of the marriage would often last for a week of celebrating, feasting, music and dancing. During the wedding feast, the couple would go into the husband's house where the marriage was consummated. Until that time, the couple were not permitted to be alone together. The first meeting alone was the consummation of the marriage, even if sexual relations did not take place. Once the couple had been alone together they were considered to be legally married. Once they were married, the husband did not work for one full year so he could concentrate on his new bride, home and marriage. 'When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be given any business; he shall be free at home one year and shall cheer his wife whom he has taken' (Deuteronomy 24:5). That is how important marriage was to the Jewish people.

We can only imagine the reaction of Mary's parents when she told them she had been visited by the messenger angel Gabriel, and their supernaturally conceived Grandchild would be the Son of God. No young girl would have been able to keep that striking event to herself, and she most certainly would not have kept it a secret from her own parents. Filled with excitement, Mary was quick to rise up and run to her Aunt/cousin Elizabeth's place, so logically she would have been very keen to share the news with her mother first. As we can see by Elizabeth's reaction to Mary's greeting, Elizabeth already knew Mary's Baby was the Son of God, so it is logical other family members would have been told too, or the whole family would have been shamed by Mary's pregnancy. Although the Bible does not mention how, Mary's parents would have been told, possibly in a dream or some other way. Jewish fathers had all authority over their children, and the Lord placed that responsibility onto the fathers, so in turn, the Lord would not have over-ridden His own command. Therefore, He would have spoken to Mary's father Heli, about all this beforehand. Mary's pregnancy would not have been a shock to her parents, just as it was not a shock to Elizabeth.

The Bible does not say who told Joseph about Mary's pregnancy, but that job probably fell to her father Heli. It was clear that Joseph did not believe Mary's story about being pregnant by the Holy Spirit. We can only imagine how heartbroken Joseph was initially. Joseph was a just and upright man and would not expose her publicly so he decided to divorce her secretly. The Laws of Moses said in the case of infidelity the guilty one could be shamed and sometimes stoned. Joseph being the kind of man he was, chose not to publicly disgrace Mary, but divorce her privately, so the Lord had to send an angel to tell him to take Mary as his wife because she really was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. The angel even explained how Mary's pregnancy was the fulfilment of prophecy (Matthew 1:20 to 23). That period of time must have been terribly difficult for both Mary and Joseph.

Once they were betrothed there would have been the usual excitement preceding a marriage. Some translations of the Bible say Joseph and Mary were betrothed when they went to Bethlehem together (Luke 2:5), but that would not have been permitted according to the law of the day. The Bible says Joseph took Mary to his side as his wife (Matthew 1:24), so they were married before they left for Bethlehem. Mary would not have accompanied Joseph if they were not legally married. The Bible does not tell us about their wedding, but it would have been a normal traditional one. We do not know if anybody other than her immediate family knew about Mary being pregnant, but if they did not know then, they would have been able to work it out when Jesus was born six months into the marriage. The shame Mary must have felt would have been very difficult to cope with in those days. It was customary for the women attending the wedding to comment on the bride's dress. The community supplied a girl with her wedding garments, so some women would have noticed Mary's pregnancy. A wedding was not a quiet, private occasion. It was expected the whole village would attend. After taking a year to prepare his life for his new bride, a groom's father would assess what his son had done, and if everything was right, would send the groom and his supporters off to collect his bride from her parent's house for the wedding. There would be a cacophony of noise as the groom

approached the bride's house. The bride and her bridesmaids would be able to hear the procession from a distance away. The bride would have made herself ready with the correct garments and without electric lighting, the oil lamps would have to be kept full and the wicks trimmed, just in case the groom arrived at night. The bride would be covered in a white veil and escorted into the street to meet her betrothed. The bride, her family and all her maids, plus groom's supporters would proceed to the groom's parent's house to join in with the guests who were already at the wedding feast. The bride would have some idea when the groom would arrive. She could not be taken unaware. If she was out or unprepared when the groom came for her, it was possible the groom would shut her out of his life. Jesus explained that scenario when He painted a verbal picture of ten brides waiting for their Bridegroom (Matthew 25:1 to 13).

Mary was from the priestly tribe of Levi, a descendant of the Aaron, as we read earlier. Joseph was from the royal tribe of Judah – a descendant of King David (Matthew 1:6 to 16). Joseph was a righteous man who had prophetic dreams that he always obeyed. The first recorded dream was the one telling him to take young pregnant Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20 to 23). Then Joseph had a dream urging him to flee into Egypt to escape Herod (Matthew 2:13). After a couple of years Joseph dreamed again. This time he was told to return to Israel (Matthew 2:19 to 21). A short time after that dream, Joseph dreamed again and he was warned to go to Galilee (Matthew 2:22). Joseph was committed to obeying the Laws of Moses as we can see several times. Luke 2:21 to 27 corresponding with Leviticus 12:2 to 8: Joseph had Jesus circumcised on the eighth day; Mary had her purification ceremony and the naming of Jesus in the Temple. Joseph, Mary and the family travelled to Jerusalem every year for Passover (Leviticus 23:5; Luke 2:41).

Joseph not only obeyed the Lord, he led his family into that level of obedience too. When God spoke to Joseph he always reacted with trust, obedience, faith and submission to the will of God, no matter how hard it was. He was encouraged to marry Mary, and he would have suffered shame and humiliation as a result of his obedience. Joseph was told to go to Egypt. We do not know what life was like there or how hard it may have been for them. It may have been hard physically, but emotionally it would have been stressful. Mary and Joseph were a great distance away from all family support for the first time in their lives, in a strange country and with a new baby. Imagine how hard that would have been for them. How did they survive financially? How did they cope? We will never know, but the Lord would certainly have provided for them. We can see that Joseph went to great lengths to protect his new little family. Then they had to undertake the long journey back to Israel when Jesus was about two or three years old. Joseph's obedience to whatever the Lord told him would have had an influence on Jesus too; Whom we know was completely obedient to God the Father.

Much of what has been written about Mary and Joseph has removed them from their cultural, historical and Biblical setting, and has created an image of Mary as an iconic deified woman. That has undermined her humanity and robbed us of seeing both Mary and Joseph as two people, especially chosen by God to carry out His divine will for the preparation of the salvation of mankind. The family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus have been stripped of their Jewishness, resulting in a church without stable roots. That in turn has created an atmosphere whereby the church has cruelly mistreated the Jewish people for two thousand years. We need to place Mary and Joseph as pivots in God's overall plan for mankind. Without their humble obedience, Jesus could not have come at that exact time. God could not have conceived Jesus within Mary's womb, if both Mary and Joseph were not obedient, faithful people. It would have been unthinkable for a young woman to raise her Son alone in those days. When we ponder on those facts and accept their role in God's plan, we will begin to grasp the Jewish foundation of our faith. Mary and Joseph lived within the Jewish culture, obeyed the Laws of Moses, spoke Hebrew and raised their children in that Biblical context. Mary and Joseph courageously faced their situation with unshakeable faith so our Messiah could come into the world as a baby. The angel told them that their miraculously conceived Son would be the Saviour of mankind. Their lives were pure, holy and righteous before God. Their role in our lives is vital to our salvation because they were the parents of Jesus our Saviour. Some may think that Joseph was 'only the stepfather' but that attitude is wrong. We must remember that Jesus was considered to be from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14), and it was Joseph who was from Judah, not Mary. She was a Levite (Luke 3:29). God has honoured Joseph for his role in helping provide us with our Saviour by including his bloodline in Jesus genealogy (Matthew 1:16) as equally as Mary's bloodline. Without Joseph and Mary we might all be spiritually lost. They were filled with faith and courage. Not only did they endure shame, they travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary was away from all family support while heavily pregnant. The trip to Bethlehem for a heavily pregnant woman in those days would have been gruelling. She gave birth without her mother there to assist her. Mary would have had assistance from the women in Joseph's family but they were not Mary's family. The male writers of the Gospel would not have thought it necessary to add a small detail like who assisted Mary during childbirth. Not long after the birth of their Baby they became refugees in Egypt because

they had to escape from Herod. Mary and Joseph went through all that for us – for you and I and the millions who have come to believe in Jesus and be saved from their sins. We have a lot to be grateful for. Thanks to them, we have our Saviour. How many people have ever thought about Mary and Joseph in that way?

Many Christians assume Joseph was dead by the time Jesus began His ministry, but that assumption may not be correct. 'Isn't this Jesus, the Son of Joseph, Whose father and mother we know?' (John 6:42). We know Mary was not dead, and she was included in the same sentence. The people of Capernaum said 'know' (present tense) not knew (past tense), so this one word implies the people knew Joseph at that time. There is another verse that indicates Joseph was still alive. 'All spoke well of Him and marvelled at the words of grace that came forth from His mouth; and they said, "Isn't this Joseph's Son?"' (Luke 4:22). It is likely that Joseph was a Master Tradesman or a Master Builder with a high social status. Jesus would have followed in his father's footsteps, as was the custom of the day, so Jesus would also have been a tradesman, taught by Joseph. By the time Jesus began his public ministry at thirty, He was already well known, honoured and respected around the whole of Israel, and that indicates a high social status. 'And Jesus Himself conducted teaching in their synagogues, being recognised and honoured by all' (Luke 4:15). Not everybody had the privilege of standing up in the synagogue to speak, but because Jesus was well versed in the scriptures, financially well off, enjoyed a high social status and was the eldest Son; all that opened doors and gave Him the chance to have incredible influence over the population. Whatever Jesus and Joseph's trade was, it paid well because Jesus owned a very expensive seamless tunic, like a warm singlet (John 19:23). Jesus would have enjoyed social privileges unavailable for less wealthy Jews.

The scriptures say Joseph was a just man – a man of high moral standing (Matthew 1:19). Mary was an innocent and pure girl, chosen and blessed (Luke 1:27 & 28). This couple were especially chosen by God to bring forth and raise the Son of God, teach Him the scriptures and to prepare Him for His ministry. God was with Joseph and Mary, of that there is no doubt, but they faced enormous obstacles and very difficult challenges. Through all of that, they remained totally obedient to God without a word of complaint. They really were role models for us to follow. When Mary told the people in John 2:5: "Whatever He tells you to do, do it," she knew what it was to be obedient and do whatever God told her, so Mary has the authority to say that. Whatever God told Joseph and Mary to do, they did it. The fact that Joseph and Mary taught Jesus so well, is an indication that God the Father was careful to choose the perfect couple to raise and teach Jesus, the Son of God.

Amen and God bless you.

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