

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... found with child...”**  
*Matthew 1:18*

Can you remember what it felt like when you first heard you were going to be a father or a mother? Most mothers have a sense about themselves to know, before anything or anyone else can confirm it, that they are pregnant. And of course, it has long been said that a woman has a certain glow about her when she is pregnant (I believe that). Can you imagine what it must have been like for, Mary, the mother of Jesus? There are several practical things we can learn from Mary's pregnancy, and the birth of Jesus.

One significant factor of Mary's pregnancy is that she was a godly young lady who kept herself chaste and virtuous before she married. She was willing to present herself to her husband as a virgin, and did so. Another factor of Mary's pregnancy and the birth of Jesus is that she was willing to be a part of God's plan not only to bring the Savior into the world, but was willing to be *just* a mother. Also, Mary (and Joseph) was willing to do what was best for the child, to protect Him inside and outside of the womb.

Most couples tell me that they have a family plan; that they are going to wait about five years after they're married to have children, but what happens when those plans don't work out accordingly? Do you think Mary (and Joseph) planned on Jesus? Who would dare call Him a surprise or a mistake! Then why should we refer to our children that way when God knew and knows everything about us and our children?

Mary was willing to listen and to learn, she was willing to develop a love for God in a way that she had never done before. God chose Mary to bring the Christ child into the world. Is it any different for you? God is not into random acts. The child or children you have or had are allowed, arranged, appointed, or assigned to you from God. He has a purpose and a plan for your life as well as theirs. I think things in parenting and motherhood would be a lot different if we truly believed that. Parenthood is not a right, it is a privilege. A mother's body is not her own. She belongs to God (and if she is married, read 1 Corinthians 7:4, this applies to the husband as well).

No one has had any more difficult circumstances in which to be pregnant and bring a child into this world than Mary. You say, "Yeah, but she was carrying the Son of God, the Savior of the world!" And your point would be . . . ? Don't forget that not only was she found pregnant before her marriage to Joseph was consummated, she was going to have to travel a long journey just before her time to give birth which couldn't have been comfortable or convenient. She had to stay in an animal stable to birth the child (Anyone done that yet? Makes the backseat of a taxi cab, elevator, or busy sidewalk look like a five star hotel). Her emotions as well as Joseph's had to be running off the charts. They knew that they hadn't known each other in the biblical sense, and yet, look at all of the public attention they endured (even to this day). And further, just after the birth, she had to run and hide because her Son had a price on His head.

Can we learn anything practical from Mary's experience in motherhood? I think so. If nothing else, irrespective of the circumstances know that it is a blessing from the Lord when a woman is found with child.