

Week 52  
356/09

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... with child ...”**  
*Luke 2:5*

I have seen quite a few women “with child” including my wife, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, and one of my sisters-in-law, not to mention countless church members throughout the years of ministry. Each one of them handled it differently than the next one as well as each of them during their different pregnancies. But one thing was consistent with their pregnancies, and is consistent with all pregnancies, when it is time for the baby to come; nothing on earth is going to keep the baby from coming. One minute she’s pregnant the next minute she’s not.

My wife’s pregnancies were difficult. One child was three months early, and the other child (after she was on strict bed-rest for five months) was one month early. My daughter had no problems with her pregnancies, but after her last pregnancy, it took her close to a year to physically recover fully. My daughter-in-law had some early issues with her first pregnancy, but they subsided and actually helped her physically, but the baby had some issues after she was born due to the birthing process. My sister’s pregnancies were normal, but her second child had to have immediate surgery. But still, in all of their collective experiences, one minute they were with child and the next minute they weren’t.

I wonder what Mary, the mother of Jesus, was thinking on that long journey to Bethlehem. She had carried the Christ-child for almost nine months. Why now in the last few days did she have to travel? What was going through her mind? She knew it was going to be a Boy (and for the first time in history, the gender was pronounced with absolute certainty). She knew He would be born in Bethlehem, but did that make the trip more tolerable? Did it make hearing that there was no room in the inn for them more acceptable?

From the time the angel spoke to her, to the time she spent with Elizabeth, to the time she broke the news to Joseph, and the events of the following months, the Son of God was taking on flesh. Now she was faced with the final event of birth. Yet, in some way, it would only be the beginning. As a matter of fact, it would be the beginning of many new beginnings, yours and mine in particular. And thankfully, on that day one minute Mary was pregnant and the next she wasn’t.

Have you given much thought to the obedience that carried Mary through her pregnancy? How about the obedience of Joseph or even Jesus? It was a miracle that Christ came the way He came, that He took on flesh and became fully man and fully God. Perhaps we should receive it as a reminder for the necessity of continued obedience for the cause of Christ the next time we see a woman with child.