

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> December 3, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> St. Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Topic:</b> Christmas: Comfort and Joy in the Lord...For Ladies – The Sensitive	

With the constant stories and reports of women being abused, mistreated and disrespected, one has to wonder if society on a whole, particularly men knows how it is that a lady should be treated. In this yuletide season, does the Christmas story offer any guidance on this matter? In Luke 1: 26-38, the passage focuses on Mary and the:

- ✘ Great Favor which was announced to her
- ✘ Great Fear which agitated her
- ✘ Great Figure which became associated with her, namely Jesus
- ✘ Great Faith which was assumed by her

In verses 26-28, we see Mary being chosen as a person. The verses speak of a:

- ✘ Privileged visitor, namely Gabriel (verse 26a)
- ✘ Proverbial view of her province – Galilee (verse 26b)
- ✘ Pledged virgin – to God – anointed line (verse 27)
- ✘ Proclamation voiced to her – greetings from the Lord (verse 28)

As it relates to ladies, this is a call to see the **L**ove that the Lord has for women. The Highest Good was on full display because selected a woman for the ultimate purpose. In seeing such love, there needs to be an acknowledgement of the regard the Lord has for women. God's eye is on them.

In verses 29-33, we see God's choice of Mary for a purpose. God's call on our lives can bring about mixed feelings, as evidenced by Mary's reactions. We see Mary:

- ✘ Being afraid of the manifestation she witnessed (verse 29)
- ✘ Being assured of the meaning of the visitation, which was about God's wonderful favor (verse 30)
- ✘ Being appointed to birth the messiah, which was about the wonderful savior. (verses 31-33)

These verses depict a call to women to see and receive the **A**ceptance the Lord has for women. Good chose a woman to bear the Highest Gift...that of His Son. Women ought to acknowledge the role that God has for them because the fact is that God's engagement is with them.

Verses 34-37 focuses on Mary being chosen for power, as evidenced by:

- ✘ Enquiry of Mary (verse 34)
- ✘ Enabling of Mary (verse 35)
- ✘ Example of Mary (verse 36)
- ✘ Education of Mary (verse 37)

This is a call to see the **D**ignity with which the Lord treats women. The Highest Riches is shown because His Spirit for them. This demands an acknowledgement of the resource the Lord has because God's endowment is for women.

Verse 38 shows Mary's commitment to the Lord's plan, with the first part of the verse speaking of her identity as a servant and the latter part of her involvement. This is a call to see the **Y**es that the Lord awaits from women. The Highest Respect that can be

shown is that of submission to God, which Mary did. This is a demand to acknowledge to the response the Lord is waiting on because God's ear is toward women.

Women can find comfort and joy in the Lord because of Christmas, for the greatest story assigns them a favorable and unforgettable place. Women should therefore accept and enjoy the Lord's favor because He knows how to treat a lady.