

While We Wait: Advent Through the Eyes of Mary
12/07/2025 • Wesley Sabio • Luke 1:26-56

Introduction

Advent slows us down to remember Christ's first coming and anticipate His return. In seasons of waiting, God forms His people. Mary's story shows us what faithful waiting looks like.

While We Wait, God Invites Us To...

1. Submit, Trust, and Obey

Luke 1:26-38, 26 *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.*

Mary's Situation

- Young, ordinary girl from Nazareth
- Engaged to Joseph
- Visited by Gabriel with a life-altering announcement

Gabriel's Message

- "You are highly favored... the Lord is with you."
- Jesus = "God saves" (His mission)
- Son of the Most High (His divinity)
- Reign on David's throne forever (fulfilled prophecy)

Mary's Response

- "I am the Lord's servant. May Your word to me be fulfilled."
- Faith rooted in God's character and Scripture
- A model of obedience despite uncertainty

Key Takeaway: God calls us to trust Him even when the path is unclear.

2. Seek Out Community

Luke 1:39-45, 39 *At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"*

Mary's First Move

- She goes immediately to Elizabeth
- She does not wait in isolation

Elizabeth's Encouragement

- Filled with the Holy Spirit
- Affirms Mary's calling
- Strengthens Mary's faith

Why Community Matters

- We need spiritual encouragers
- We are called to "spur one another on" (Hebrews 10:24–25)
- *"The Christian life isn't difficult to do alone—it is impossible."* — **David Kim**

Key Takeaway: God uses community to confirm His work in us and sustain us as we wait.

3. Worship

Luke 1:46–56, 46 *And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, **49** for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. **50** His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. **51** He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. **52** He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. **53** He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. **54** He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful **55** to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." **56** Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*

Mary's Song (The Magnificat)

- A heart overflowing with praise because she knows God deeply.

Seven Truths About God From Mary's Song

- God sees the humble (v. 48)
- God uses ordinary people (vv. 48–49)
- God is mighty and does great things (v. 49)
- God is merciful across generations (v. 50)
- God humbles the proud (v. 51)
- God exalts the humble & satisfies the needy (vv. 52–53)
- God keeps His promises (vv. 54–55)

Key Takeaway: Worship turns our eyes from our uncertainty to God's faithfulness.

Conclusion

This Advent, Mary teaches us to:

- Submit, trust, and obey God even when we don't have all the answers.
- Seek community for encouragement and confirmation.
- Worship while we wait, remembering God's faithfulness.

Reflection Questions for the Week

- Where is God inviting me to trust Him more deeply?
- Who is my "Elizabeth"—someone who builds my faith?
- How can I incorporate worship into my waiting this week?