

Luke 1:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Analysis

Mary's response demonstrates the Greek word 'hupēretis' (handmaid/servant), indicating willing submission to God's will despite the enormous personal cost and social stigma she would face. Her words 'be it unto me according to thy word' echo the passive voice, showing she recognized herself as the recipient of God's action rather than an active participant. This exemplifies saving faith—trusting submission to God's revealed word—and contrasts sharply with Zechariah's unbelief (Luke 1:18-20).

Historical Context

An unmarried pregnant woman in first-century Judaism faced potential divorce (Matthew 1:19), public shame, and even stoning under the most strict interpretation of the Law. Mary's acceptance required extraordinary faith and courage, knowing the social consequences she would endure.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does Mary's immediate submission teach you about responding to God's will when the cost seems overwhelming?
2. How does Mary's faith contrast with Zechariah's doubt, and what does this reveal about the nature of true belief?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν δὲ Μαριάμ Ἰδού, ἡ δούλη κυρίου· γένοιτο
said And Mary Behold G3588 the handmaid of the Lord be it
G2036 G1161 G3137 G2400 G1399 G2962 G1096

μοι κατὰ τὸ ρῆμά σου καὶ ἀπῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτῆς
unto me according G3588 word to thy And departed from her
G3427 G2596 G4487 G4675 G2532 G565 G575 G846

ο ἄγγελος
the angel
G3588 G32

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:16 (References Lord): O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

Psalms 119:38 (Word): Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.