

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	Ἰδοὺ,	ἡ	δούλη	κυρίου·	γένοιτό	
said	And	Mary	Behold	G3588	the handmaid	of the Lord	be it	
G2036	G1161	G3137	G2400		G1399	G2962	G1096	
μοι	κατὰ	τὸ	ῥῆμά	σου	καὶ	ἀπῆλθεν	ἀπ'	αὐτῆς
unto me	according	G3588	word	to thy	And	departed	from	her
G3427	G2596		G4487	G4675	G2532	G565	G575	G846
ὁ	ἄγγελος							
G3588	the angel							
	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.