

Luke 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Analysis

Mary's response contrasts with others' amazement: 'But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.' The word 'kept' (suneterei) means to preserve carefully, while 'pondered' (sumballousa) means to bring together, compare, consider deeply. Mary didn't merely remember but actively meditated on these events, seeking to understand their significance. Her thoughtful reflection models proper response to divine revelation—not hasty conclusions but careful, prayerful consideration. As recipient of greatest revelation (Gabriel's announcement), Mary still needed to process and understand God's unfolding purposes. Her pondering shows humility and teachability. This contemplative response demonstrates that understanding God's work requires patient reflection, not just immediate excitement.

Historical Context

Mary's pondering of these events over time allowed her to process the theological significance of what was occurring. Her careful meditation would later enable her to provide detailed testimony (likely Luke's source for these events) about Jesus's birth and early life.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between merely hearing about God's work and pondering it?
2. How does Mary's contemplative response model healthy spiritual reflection?
3. Why is patient, prayerful consideration important in understanding God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	δὲ	Μαριὰμ	πάντα	συνετήρει	τὰ	ρήματα	ταῦτα
G3588	But	Mary	all	kept	G3588	these things	G5023
G1161		G3137	G3956	G4933		G4487	
συμβάλλουσα				ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	αὐτῆς
and pondered				them in	G3588	heart	G846
				G1722		G2588	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:51 (Parallel theme): And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Luke 1:66 (Parallel theme): And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Proverbs 4:4 (Parallel theme): He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

1 Samuel 21:12 (Parallel theme): And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

Genesis 37:11 (Parallel theme): And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

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