

Mary's story teaches us qualities God looks for

Last week we looked at the life of Mary, and I had mentioned that we might come back to her this week.

Grab some egg nog (Do you like egg nog? I do it's a favorite at Christmas time!) Go ahead and have a sugar cookie too.

When you look at Mary and the other individuals that are written about in the Bible, you learn that there are some qualities God looks for in people so He can use them.

We saw last week that God uses people who desire to do His will. He uses people who are willing to pay the cost. Finally, he uses people who dare to trust His promises. Let's expound on those today.

Here we go. You can reference Luke 1:26-38.

First, God uses people who desire to do His will. You have to want to



steve rains

● moments from calvary

do His will. You see we all have a problem with this "I" thing. Have you experienced that? You and I have to say, "I want God's will for my life."

That is not automatic. God made you for a purpose, but you could miss that purpose. God uses people who desire to do His will.

Just think about that angel showing up to Mary and saying, "God's got this fantastic plan. He is going to come to earth so you all (this angel's from the south.) know what

sation? How did she respond? By saying, "My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices in God my Savior..."

She didn't say, "Find somebody else!" Or, "I've got a career to decide about, I have my plans, my ambitions, my dreams..." This really isn't convenient for them. Doesn't God know I have to think about what is best for me? Surely, there is someone else."

She didn't decline God's will; she wanted it. God uses people who

want to be used. In that desire to be used, she displayed enthusiasm. She said, "My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices."

It doesn't sound to me that she is making a grin and bear it statement. It's not a "let's get this over with." There is eagerness! She also displayed humility. Look at verse 48. She is humble about this whole situation, and she treasured it in her heart. She didn't go bragging about it.

Who else does God use? He uses people who decide to pay the cost. Understand there is always a cost in following God's plan for your life. Mary said in verse 38, "I am willing to do whatever He wants."

Whatever includes everything. Does that sound risky? Think about what it cost her? How about her reputation? She was a virgin but

pregnant with the Son of God. She was engaged to be married, but pregnant? How do you explain that at the coffee shop?

The truth is, when you decide to get serious with God, it will cost you your reputation. People won't understand why you have become a "Jesus Freak."

It also cost her comfort. Nine months pregnant, on a back of a donkey, need we say more? Let's be honest — God's purpose for my life includes some problems. See Luke 14:27-28.

One more, and we will make it quick — I am ready for a refill. God uses people who dare to trust His promises. Mary took God at His word. She believed His promises (Luke 1:34-35, 37).

It takes courage to be used by God. Courage doesn't mean

you're not afraid, but it does mean you move ahead in spite of your fear. Mary believed in the supernatural. She wasn't afraid of miracles.

As we wrap this up, why don't you sing like Mary? You can read her song in Luke 1:46. Instead of worrying, she worshipped. Instead of panicking at the unknown, she prayed. And, instead of having a pity party, she praised.

Well, I trust your preparations for Christmas are coming along well. Most importantly, prepare your heart for the big things God wants to do in you.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Governors gather to share ideas, success

In 1932, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis touted the fact that the then 48 states served as "laboratories of democracy," trying new ideas that, if successful, could then be spread to other states and to the federal government.

Kansas' leaders have always been willing to use this freedom to the fullest, and our state's successes will be on display this week as governors from around the nation gather to share ideas as part of "Innovation America."

This initiative of the National Governors Association is designed to keep America competitive in the world economy by encouraging innovation by businesses and individuals.

Kansas companies are just as likely to be competing against firms in Europe or China as they are against businesses in Missouri or Oklahoma, so making sure our businesses have the tools they need to compete on the world stage has been a critical part of our job creation strategy.

Maintaining a well-trained, well-educated workforce has been a key part of this strategy, and the historic commitment we've made to Kansas schools will go a long way toward ensuring businesses have the skilled employees they need to compete.

And in the coming years, support for early childhood education, as well as higher education at universities, community colleges and vocational and technical schools, will help us build on this commitment to K-12 education.

Additionally, giving businesses incentives to invest in new technology has been a cornerstone of our plan, and elimination of the property tax on business machinery and equipment gives companies another reason to create jobs in Kansas.

Along with our work to strengthen existing industries like aviation and agriculture, these efforts will help our state take advantage of new job creation opportunities in high-tech industries like biosciences and alternative energy.

Our strategy has helped Kansas businesses grow and create jobs and it's one that other states can benefit from, while at the same time knowing they'll never quite be able to match the hard work, ingenuity and determination that make Kansas workers and businesses second to none.



kathleen sebelius

● governor

This could be your next job

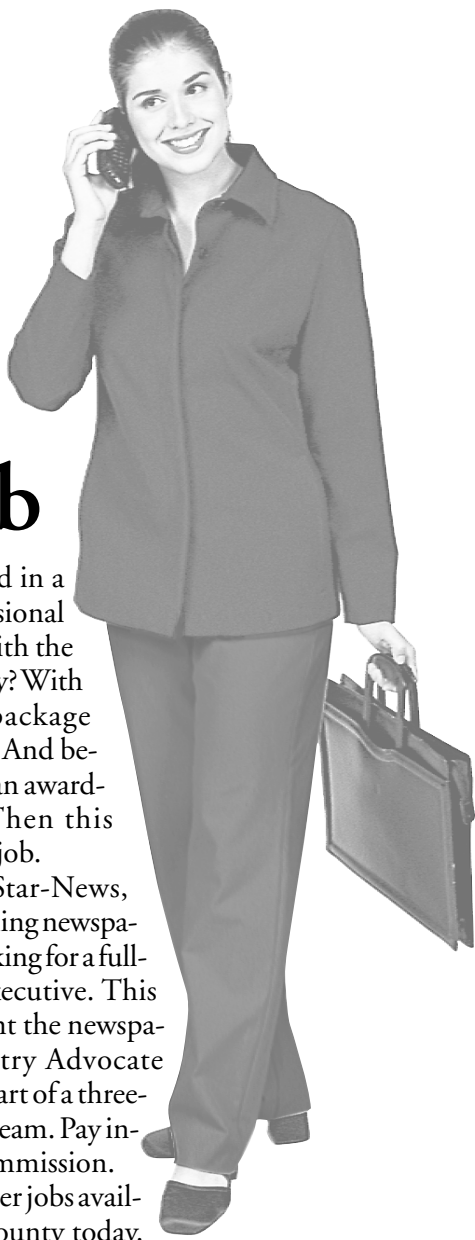
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The Goodland Star-News



Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 4 pm



Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life Foursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.
(during school year)

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community
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Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Michael Estep
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:

Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
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Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake
Fifth & Center • 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
9:15 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Bible study 7 p.m.
Call church for information
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969
Sr. Warden for emergencies
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Harvest Evangelical Free Church

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group
meets at 7 p.m.
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Christian eduction/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

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