

Blessed and Highly Favored

Luke 1:28-30

Lots of use of this term...

Lots of misuse...

Contrary the popular use of the phrase, blessed and highly favored does not always mean materially blessed.

We have been **conditioned** to believe that blessings and favor are connected to **material wealth and possessions!**

We hear it all the time...(favor isn't fair)

Yes, this is true because sometimes favor will turn your WHOLE life upside down!

Many of the most FAVORED men and women of the Bible led lives of great suffering BUT lives that brought immense glory to God!

When we look at this **text**, being **favored** had nothing to do with houses, cars, money, fancy accoutrements....

Here in the text, the **accoutrements** of life were **nowhere to be found...**

but God's **will and plan** for Mary was on full display!

I **contend** that we are *blessed and highly favored whether we are in plenty or in lack!* Blessed and highly favored means that God has His hands on us for His purposes!

1. God was with Mary before He called Mary (Verse 28)

In this text, **God sent Gabriel to announce** to Mary that she would be the vessel through which Jesus would come!

The Bible says that the **Word became flesh** [**middle voice-**
the WORD made a decision] and made His dwelling
among men. The Word would be made flesh in the womb
of Mary.

Isaiah called Him **Immanuel**...God with US!

So, Gabriel shows up and gives Mary a **command**...**Rejoice**
(Greetings)- imperative mood...

FAVORED ONE: The *one who was already*
favored...**perfect tense**...God already had a plan...

The **eternality** of God means that God already has our
lives **mapped** out before we ever take a breath!

The **eternality** of God allowed **Jeremiah** to say to the
Israelites: For I know the plans that I have for you, plans

to prosper you and not to harm you...plans to give you hope and a future!

The **timing** was important **but the favor was already there...THIS is who God chose for this purpose!**

No one or nothing could change that!

Galatians 4:4...in the fullness of time...God sent His Son...born of a woman, born under law!

Mary was in a **position** to be used by God...

2. The call of God may not match the circumstances (Verse 29)

This is **how we can know** that favor and blessings are not always material...

Mary was **perplexed** and kept wondering...what is this angel talking about!

How can I be favored?

I'm a...

Poor, teenaged girl...

Not **married**...

I'm not a socialite...

I'm **engaged** to a man who is not making a ton of money

We are FROM **Bethlehem**...small town...living in **Nazareth**...even worse...

How in the world can this angel call me favored?

You might be thinking the same thing! You might be thinking that everyone else with all the stuff is blessed!

No, you and I are blessed because God has purpose for our lives!

Not perfection, but purpose!

Not always great riches, but purpose!

Not always the newest this or that, but purpose!

THE BLESSING IS IN THE PURPOSE AND NOT THE POSSESSIONS!

AND the word of the LORD cannot return to Him void!

The moment the angel announced that Mary was favored, the REASON for that favor was imparted into her life...

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Psalm 138:8 “*The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.*”

Even in light of Mary’s circumstances, the Angel says to her...YOU ARE FAVORED! Our circumstances do not

dictate God's favor, God **CHOOSES** us in spite of those things!

In **actuality**, it was Mary's *circumstances that made the blessing of God so much more powerful...* He chose the weak things to shame the strong; the low things to shame the mighty; the things that are NOT to nullify the things that are!

God knows that He is doing!

3. God will cover the ones whom He has called (Verse 30)

GRACE...

God knew everything that was coming and he would give GRACE to ensure it!

FAVOR meant...

Being **ridiculed** because of being pregnant and not yet married...

Giving birth in a feeding **trough**;

Hiding in Egypt;

Joseph wanting to **leave**;

People thinking that your son **has lost his senses**

Seeing the **prophecy of Simeon** come to fruition - sword will pierce

Watching them **hoist Jesus** up on a cross...and hearing Jesus say to you “woman behold your son”

SOMETIMES FAVOR COMES WITH FRUSTRATION!

I believe that the reason God gave **THIS** assignment to Mary is because God knew what her response would be...

Verse 37-38

Mary did not anticipate the hardships coming her way **BUT** she knew that God called her name and therefore, her faith said...whatever your will is God, I accept it!