



## Luke 1:26-28, 39-42 (NKJV)

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

*Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, <sup>40</sup> and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"*

### The Ave Maria or the Hail Mary prayer:

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

- The first two phrases are directly from the gospel of Luke.
- By the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, it was part of the liturgy of the church.
- By 1000 A.D., it had become a way of offering devotion to Mary.
- By 1500 A.D., a final phrase was added that is not found in the gospels.

### History behind the “Annunciation” story in Luke 1:

- “Annunciation” means \_\_\_\_\_.
- The angel Gabriel appears to a 12/13 year old girl named Mary and announces that she has been chosen by God to bear His Son.
- Nazareth: a very small, poor village with a population of 100. People lived in caves cut into the limestone hillsides.
- Angel Gabriel: Name means \_\_\_\_\_.

### Gabriel says to Mary:

*"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

Luke 1:28 (NKJV)

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.*

Luke 1:29 (NKJV)

### What does Gabriel's greeting to Mary teach us?

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"

- "Hail" is an old English word for "Greetings."
- The Latin word for "Greetings" is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Greek word used in our text is "charis" = "Rejoice"

Once Gabriel greets Mary, he gives her a descriptive phrase "highly favored one" or "full of grace."

Kecharitomene = "you who are highly graced"

### What does it mean to be "full of grace?"

- Giving love when it is not deserved or earned.
- It is showing kindness and expecting nothing in return.
- It is forgiving someone who has wronged you even though you have the right to retaliate.

So, when Gabriel said that Mary was full of grace, it was recognition of her character.

Get This:

God has a tendency to use \_\_\_\_\_.  
God blesses them, calls them and uses them for remarkable things.  
"Hail Mary, full of grace." Can the same be said of you?

### The rest of the story:

Mary leaves Nazareth and goes to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth is probably Mary's cousin. She is much older than Mary; probably in her early 50's. Elizabeth is six months pregnant with her first child, and her child was also announced by Gabriel.

*And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

Luke 1:41-42 (NKJV)

To pray for a "blessing" can be a very dangerous thing to do!

"The piercing truth is that God does not choose a person for ease and comfort and selfish joy, but for a task that will take all that the head and heart and hand can bring to it."

- William Barclay

GET THIS:

Most often there is a \_\_\_\_\_ that comes with a blessing.  
God's blessing requires something of you.  
God has an expectation of you.

You are blessed to be a blessing to others!