

****Bumper Video 3 –**

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Luke 1:28

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."(NIV)

Isn't it great to be Favored? Isn't it great to live under God's blessing? This Mary, the mother of Jesus it is said of her that she is... Blessed

Luke 1:42

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

Luke 1:48

...From now on all generations will call me blessed,

I believe Mary, the Mother of Jesus has wisdom to share with **<Blessed Moms>**

Mary is blessed. The arch angel Gabriel comes and calls her Favored... tells this virgin girl that she will give birth to the Savior.

I ask you, how you would feel when an arch angel... I mean they give this guy a name... Gabriel... This is no lower level Angel. How do you feel the moment this big Angel appears to you and says you are God's chosen? How do you feel when he declares you are blessed and favored of God?

Here is how Mary felt...

Luke 1:29-30

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.(NIV)

Mary was Blessed – But she was also afraid.

I think Mary might tell us that we don't understand blessing.

Mary had a lot to worry about...

She was a virgin...

She was engaged to be married...

Under Hebrew Law her life was in danger. Joseph could have had her stoned for being a unfaithful and bringing shame. That's the worst that could happen... the least that could happen is that people would talk, she would be an outcast and most likely disowned by her family and she would have lived in devastating poverty while trying to raise Jesus.

Those are hardly circumstances that we would describe as blessed.

I think Mary might tell us that we don't understand blessing. **<Blessed Moms>** Listen to what Mary has to say.

She would tell you that **blessed doesn't mean problem free. Blessed doesn't mean comfortable. Blessed doesn't mean easy. Blessed doesn't mean everyone likes you. Blessed doesn't mean you won't suffer.**

We think blessed means money in the bank... that all your prayers are answered... we think that blessed families have perfect kids...

When Mary heard she was blessed – she was afraid.

I've got some great and unexpected news for someone today – You are Blessed and you don't even know it.

Mary wants you to know what being blessed is all about... As I've said it's NOT about your circumstance... Here is what it's about...

Luke 1:28

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."(NIV)

THE LORD IS WITH YOU.. Do you know that the Lord is with you?

A lot is made of Mary's encounter with the angel and the news of blessing... But she would tell you there was more to her life than that one moment.

This moment with the angel wouldn't be the only time she was afraid, or would second guess and question...

One day she was afraid when she accidentally left her young son alone in Jerusalem... He was in the temple...

Mary had other children (people forget that) These kids, like all kids, caused some worry.

Can you imagine the fear Mary faced when her Husband Joseph passed away.

When her son Jesus, the Savior, was taken in the dead of night... when he was beaten... when he carried the cross... as he died.... You don't think was afraid...? You don't think she questioned...?

Blessed are you Mary – The Lord is with you!

I don't know what you are facing that you are afraid of... But I'm here to tell you - **The Lord is with you! You are blessed. You want a Blessed Family? You need the Lord to be with you.**

Mary wants you to know that she faced problems early and often just like you do, but that the Lord was always with her. He wasn't always visible... but He was there. He didn't always send an Angel... but He was there.

She didn't just have faith and courage that one time... She walked by faith constantly...

A story about Mary that doesn't get told near enough...

A resurrected Jesus

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.(NIV)

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.(NIV)

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.(NIV)

In the Gospels it tells us Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and gave her a son, this same Mary was filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

I think Mary wants us to know she lived by Faith daily and that she encountered the Holy Spirit more than once.

<Faith & Spirit aren't 1 time events – We need them everyday>

Our families need Faith and the Holy Spirit!

When was the last time you stepped out on faith? When was the last time you truly encountered the Holy Spirit.

They aren't 1 time events. Churches today act like they are but they aren't

MUSICIAN

This modern world does a lot of things well. It's innovative. It solves some complex problems. It does things we never thought possible.

But there are some things this modern world can't give you. There is a wisdom that only comes from God. There is a truth, a healing, a peace, a salvation... that only comes from God.

We need some mothers and fathers, some sons and daughters, some grandparents, aunts & uncles to come to this altar today.

We need some moms with a burden for their families.

We need some Fathers who understand how to talk to God and aren't ashamed to model it.

We need a new generation to rise up that doesn't set its dreams and desires on what this world can give... but will seek what only God can give.