

Studying The Word/Strength for the Journey

Our hope is that as we explore the light of God's word together, His grace, truth, strength, and love will be illuminated. As we ourselves have learned about God and His word, we have discovered that some issues that have caused us to stumble in the darkness...were just the issues God wanted to heal!

We also hope that you will be open to responding to His invitations in his word to "walk in the light" and allow Him to offer healing. Day Seven Ministries can offer professional support as you journey.

¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke

2:19 Mary is quite the interesting character I have to say- so unlike me. I am hard-wired to be decisive, to think, act, and move on what is seen. Pondering comes last, after the fact- as an evaluation of the event, a processing of the situation to see what can be improved. Treasuring comes even later, valuing what has worked and what went right and making that the "treasure" for future events. Value comes from what has been done, what was accomplished and what is to come. Not so with Mary...

Mary treasured what she had- a visit from an angel, with implications that were beyond human comprehension. Mary pondered what she observed-the working out *by* God of what God had said would be. Mary valued- not what she was doing (conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth are *quite* the accomplishment), or who she was, or what role she had, but rather she treasured and pondered the Giver- God. I wonder what had been "treasured" in Mary's heart up to this point in her life...what childhood and young adolescent experiences took up residence in Mary's heart; what dreams and ambitions for her future and marriage were hidden in Mary's heart before the angel came? I wonder if the displacement of those "treasures" was an instantaneous surrender or if Mary wrestled with the option-I know for some of you even considering this may seem sacrilege, what with the elevated image of Mary we have been taught, but honestly, is it only me that wonders? These thoughts lead me to examine my own heart, and the treasures that lie within...are my "treasures" really treasures? Many of us have endured or experienced horrors that were never meant to be-yet by the simple act of allowing them to continue to be in our hearts, we have elevated trash to treasure and ponder all the wrong things, drawing all sorts of wrong conclusions. Perhaps you never thought of sins committed against you (abuse, molestation, brokenness) as being "treasured" by you, but again, by keeping them, and not releasing them, they become treasures. And how many of us have found that the "treasured trash" becomes the addiction in our life that simply won't let go? Abused or molested as children, we become addicted to sexual sin for one example. At times the things I treasure are not so insidious or painful, simply "less than" what God intends. My dreams, my ambitions become so great in my own mind that I hold so tightly to my definition I miss the treasure offered by God... at least my dreams are defined and known, God's seem so big, so foreign, and oh, so beyond my capability! Pondering is another area in my life I wonder if I need to evaluate- Do I take what God gives, what He offers and take off on it and "do the thing" that He intended for me to simply experience? See, if an angel visited me, and told me I was going to carry and raise the Son of God, well, you can bet I would get right on that task! I would begin planning, looking into school options for the little fellow, and set out to prove God did not make a mistake in picking me! I am sure I would have a sit down session with Joseph and outline how we were going to handle any bad press and gossip that would be sure to be flying around about this issue- I would want the come back lines already outlined before I heard them. None of that sounds like pondering to me...listening to it, it sounds exhausting, emotionally draining and so very shallow. Pondering sounds like sitting and thinking and turning the