

WHEN GOD STEPS IN

Christ in Our Loneliness

- Luke 1:26-34

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:35-38)

The 'dis-ease'- of loneliness . . .

The loneliness of Mary . . .

- Relationally misunderstood
- Culturally stereotyped
- Socially isolated

Some coping questions . . .

- ▶ Am I surrendering to God?

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38 NIV)

³⁸Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true." (Luke 1:38 NLB)

► **Am I connecting where I can?**

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! (Luke 1:39-42)

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. (Luke 1:56)

► **Am I reframing my situation with worship?**

⁴⁶. . . "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

⁴⁸For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

⁵¹His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵²He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."

(Luke 1:46-55 NLT)