

Mary was willing and obedient – 19 Dec 2014

- Joshua Daniel

Now my dear friends our world is full of traditions of all sorts and it is amazing how we can get fossilized, spiritually fossilized and still cling to some tradition. You know I have never had any sympathy or truck with superstition. Today, as I travel and speak in many quarters of the globe I find that most of the religion that people have, consists of superstition or some tradition and that sums up their whole experience of what? Of God. Some second hand stuff that has trickled down to them and they cling to it like drowning man clutch at a straw but it's not going to help them. But you know at the first revelation after Jesus was born, following that revelation we have a description of Mary in Luke the 2nd chapter and the 19th verse; but Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. It's amazing, you know we see two very silent people, silence is not one of our virtues these days, big mouths everywhere, voices trying to drown out others including the home, mark you, the results of course is confusion. But here as she saw the unraveling of this great even, the birth of our lord and she being a principle instrument. Did she ever expect it? You know from her utterances you can see how it came like a bolt from the blue; suddenly! and it was too much for her to grasp it and when actually the lord Jesus Christ was born to her in her virginity you can imagine how that would have set a thinking person into a cognition and understanding and into a spirit of enquiry. What is missing today in every field there is a deal of the spirit of enquiry except in the realm which matters most. Your eternity! Where you are going to spend eternity! That people have little time to think of or ponder. Isn't that sad? It seems to be totally contradictory that we can run after bobbles and throw away an eternity. It is sad, Sad beyond all words. If Christ had to come into this world to die for you and me, doesn't that immediately put us at a different status altogether? That is ;we become players or persons who make eternity, who are part of eternity, People through whom God has an eternal plan to work out. I just mailed a letter to a young university student who appeared to be bemoaning the fact that he had failed an examination. Sometimes I've told medical students failing a medical

examination is no calamity. Suppose you knew 90% of the subject and you had a medical case to deal with, who fell into the cracks where you did not imbibe that 10% what would happen to it? A life is at risk. So if you have to repeat the examination it's for your good. And it's for the good of the patients that will come to you in future so nothing to worry. I wrote to this young man, "look, God's children have no disappointments; they have only appointments". You know our disappointments seem to plunge us into fears and speculations of all sorts. This might happen, that might happen, I might never figure out, I am born looser but just think of this, an ordinary country maiden suddenly entrusted with this great responsibility of being the mother of the savior of the world. Suppose you put yourself in that place, what are the chances that you are in any sense equipped for the job or that you will figure out? You know we don't see things that way. That God who had that great purpose for Mary through his son Jesus Christ has a great purpose for us. We don't seem to look at it that way at all. You know, we want to travel on a wave of euphoria. I see many heathen people celebrating their festivals. Now my dear friends so we have these festivals and Christmas has become just another festival where we splurge, divorces are at the highest level, Christ has come to increase the number of divorces? Is that the purpose of Christmas? What are we doing with ourselves? Running around like mad rats? What are we doing with ourselves? Christ has brought a love which is eternal. Christ has come to make the word of a person stronger than any document in the world and when a man or a woman says "I WILL", will you have this woman to be your wife? I will. It can't become I won't. And if it should become I won't, it should happen at the altar and everybody can exit. You know; but to turn an oath, a vow in the presence of the lord Jesus Christ into a blatant lie! My dear friends, that speaks of an arrogance; that speaks of a pride; that speaks of a fist shaken in the face of God. Folks, the lord Jesus Christ came as the truth. You know to bring truth into our lives it's no easy proposition. You know, we are bluffers by birth. It's shameful but that's how we are. We like to put on a facade which just isn't us. We like to wear paint to completely disguise our true features. We like cosmetic surgery. We don't like the truth. Let's face it! We don't want the truth. You know, men who never listen to their wives are people who say I will never correct myself. I'm born this way, I'll die this way. You didn't know the alphabet when you

were born, why should you learn it? That is not sensible thinking in the least, all right, and a woman who will not say to her husband ;just tell me the truth what have you seen in me by which If I correct myself I will be a far better person? She doesn't want to improve, does she? She doesn't want to learn, does she? No. what is all these retraining that people, retraining programs all over the place? You've got to retrain, you've got to come up to par, your old knowledge from the class room is no longer viable, you need to go back and do fresh courses. What's all this about? We never do any fresh courses in our families, do we? We don't ever say "my family is going to be the very best family in this country". I am going to see that there is going to be the truth and nothing but the truth in my home. Why don't we say that? Why do we turn away as soon as somebody comes up with some slander or some rumor or something? We don't pursue the truth, we don't love the truth. That's the problem because truth brings out the ugliness of our inward nature. Well, take a man like me, I am no longer as young as most of you here or all of you, suppose I say I don't want the truth, well, you better embalm me and put me in the ground because there is not hope for a person who does not want the truth. You know my dear friends, how my heart is hungering for the truth? That's the only way by which I can be more fruitful during my last years. May be you think you have years to squander, I have none. I have not a day to squander. I want the truth that cleanses us. I want the truth that will burn out the dross; I want the truth that will as a furnace produce real gold. When we come to Jesus there must be that willingness.