

# Reflections

On

## *A Common Rule for Monastics*



# Mary

(Chapter 13)

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***“...Let it be unto me according to your word.”***

Chapter 13, Paragraph 7, Line 5

We hold Mary in high regard because of her place in history and being the junction, so to speak, where Divinity met humanity. Mary is revered for being the mother of Jesus, and all that that must have meant during His childhood. She was entrusted with the care of the Saviour of the world. Although Mary is held in such high esteem, we must be ever mindful of her role, but more so the One she bore.

It is Mary’s sterling character that we ought to emulate. It is those quality traits that we must exhibit at all times and make them who we are.

**HUMILITY:** Even though the Mighty One did great things for her, her attitude was that it was more what he did **through** her than for her. Her humility kept this great act in perspective. Like Mary, when we are truly humble, we are not self-absorbed, neither full of pride.

**CONTEMPLATIVE:** Mary treasured the Words of the Lord, which were delivered by angels, and pondered them in her heart. We too must hear, listen, meditate upon, then act on the Word of God.

**AVAILABLE:** The Lord predestined Mary to be the bearer of the Redeemer of the world, and she readily accepted with the words, “let it be done to me according to your word.” In this world we sometimes find ourselves too distracted to even hear from God, so we miss out on being channels of His love. Why? Because distractions deafen us to the voice of God and make us unavailable to Him. We (the world) would do well to quiet ourselves, listen, hear, do.

**DEVOTED:** Mary’s devotion to Jesus is one of the things we admire most. She was a great mother during His childhood (just look how He turned out), was there throughout His ministry (from the first miracle), and lovingly gazed upon Him on the Cross. What devotion. When last did we question our devotion to Christ? What was the answer? What was the action plan?

**FAITH:** To be charged with the responsibility of carrying, birthing and caring for the Messiah must have taken great faith. I assume Mary knew the prophecies

regarding the Saviour. So this awesome responsibility she agreed to take on, in my opinion, was not joyfully taken on, as it was, without an abundance of faith.

I think our lives may be so much more peaceful when we, by faith, are assured that God, in His Providence, has our best interest ever before Him. *“What is man that You are mindful of him .... Care for him?”* – (Psalm 8:4)

**SERVANT:** Mary was a mother. She was also a servant of the Most High. She willingly accepted His will for her life, that of being the channel through which Heaven was able to walk on earth.

What is our attitude when **service** called/calls our names? Did we say, and are we now saying, like Mary did, ***“Let it be unto me according to Your Word”***?

We may look to Mary’s life of devotion, humility and service as standards for our own lives, and aim to please the Lord with our availability and faith, by joyfully accepting the call for service He continues to make.