

## **Donkey Talk: Mary's Surprise**

"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1 30-33

This was the start of a very strange life for me. I was in my stable when I heard this, my mistress was by herself, well I thought that she was by herself and I heard voices. I craned my neck to see what was going on but the voice was out of sight.

Then I saw my mistress walk towards me, her face looked shocked. My mistress isn't very old. What had shocked her so.

Later that night I heard shouting from the house, and crying from my mistress, I heard her say that she was pregnant. Her parents were distraught, they told her that she was a disgrace to the family. She kept telling them that she was loved, she was loved by God, and that it was God's child.

They didn't believe her, I found that difficult, my mistress told me everything deep within her heart. She hadn't spoken to me yet, it must be big. No doubt she will come to me soon and tell me what is going on.

She eventually came and cried into my fur, she told me what had happened, an Angel had come to tell her that she would have a son and she would call him Emmanuel, God with us. She was mixed with emotions, she had to tell her Fiancé, what would he say? She was going to be his wife. He would discard her onto the street.

But it is God's child.

How would anyone ever believe her? She couldn't understand why she had been singled out, she knew that she always tried to do things to please people and she loved God with all of her heart but she was going to have a child, the son of God.

Her Fiancé came to visit, there were more harsh words, but I could tell that he loved her but felt betrayed. He planned to quietly let her go and get on with his life.

My mistress came often after that, I seemed to be the only one that she could cuddle. I whinnied when I saw her Fiancé come back the

following day. I didn't know what was going to happen. He came and put his arms around her and gave her a huge hug. He apologised for not believing her. He had had a dream and he was told by God to take my mistress as his wife and that everything was ok.

My mistress cheered up, tears were rolling down her cheeks again, this time with relief. I may be only a donkey but I love my mistress and will stand by her no matter what.

God had given her a huge task, a difficult task, one which made others think that she had betrayed her partner. Doing things to please God is not always easy. It may take our energy and make us unpopular. When we think about times in our lives where doing the right thing was difficult, such as sticking up for someone being bullied, we are doing God's work. God is with us, God loves us and stands by us but it isn't always easy. Mary accepted God's request and her whole life was affected by it. How can we follow her example and go on a path which promotes peace in the world.

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