

My True Love “Did You Know”

I. SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:19 NKJV – “We love Him because He first loved us.”

II. DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that I have been thinking a lot about babies lately? I’m not just talking about our church babies who are enrolled in our new Christian school next door. I’m also not even just talking my very own babies: Lilli, whom just came back to Nevada for a visit with my other baby Sheena who now lives in Reno... nor the one whom is still at home, Rica, whom I also greatly love and adore, with whom I had a little time and an opportunity to spend some dinnertime together with just last night. But I have also noticed recently and been thinking about some other babies, some in development in their mother’s womb and some who have just very recently emerged from there. For example, Sheena’s school friend Anita just returned back home from the hospital after delivering her second baby girl. And then there’s my baby Rica’s friend Natalie, whose mother Samantha is even now pregnant with a baby girl, who will be a new sister to Natalie. And then, please don’t forget that my eldest baby Jackie is now pregnant with what will be my first grandbaby: a baby boy, who is due to arrive early next year. I can’t help but to notice all the joy that is in all these mom’s hearts, as these children are expected, and as they arrive in our crazy world.

You’ll notice that on the front of today’s bulletin is a picture of what appears to be a young Jewish woman holding a baby. You’ll notice that she is full of joy as she looks adoringly at him. It’s as if no one or nothing else in the world matters to her at the moment. We could even image that this might be this particular artist’s rendition of Mary, who is holding her son YESHUAH [Jesus], couldn’t we? This picture reminds me of a famous song entitled “Mary Did You Know?”. It is a song with lyrics written by Mark Lowry, a comedian and songwriter in 1984, where the music was finally written for it by Buddy Greene by 1991. It was originally recorded by Christian recording artist Michael English in 1991. At that time, both Lowry and Greene were members of the Gaither Vocal Band, and Greene was touring with them.¹ The lyrics go like this:

¹ "How Well Do You Know 'Mary Did You Know?'" , "Sheet Music Direct. Retrieved December 30, 2018. an interview with the songwriter, Mark Lowry ... originally conducted by Martha Lyon for AbsolutelyGospel.com.

**“Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?”**

**“Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby, you kissed the face of God?”**

**“Mary did you know?
The blind will see?
The deaf will hear?
The dead will live again?
The lame will leap?
The dumb will speak the praises of The Lamb?”**

**“Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.”²**

There is an irony in this “Did you Know?” question. There is a question that I would want to ask Mary. Not only would I have asked her that when she held and looked so lovingly at her son YAHUSHA [Jesus], did she actually realize that He was the Son of the Living YAHUAH [God]. But the irony would be this question that I would ask her: “Mary, did you know that before you were born, that it was this same little Baby Boy Who had already looked at you in much the same loving, adoring way? Mary, that even thou it may seem impossible that anyone could love you more than you love your Baby Boy YAHUSHA [Jesus] at that particular moment, did you know that He had already gazed at you in much the same way? And that as you were growing inside your mother’s womb, and as you were born, that He was looking at you in an even more lovingly, more adoring way than even you could? Yes, beloved Mary, your Baby Boy YAHUSHA [Jesus] was even more loving, more reflectively toward you, when He looked at you before you were born... as you were born... and as you grew up, than even all the love and adoration that you had as you gazed upon Him as your little Baby Boy. Mary, did you know that as you developed into that beautiful young

² “Mary Did You Know? Lyrics,” SONGLYRICS: Know the Words, Accessed 11/14/20, <http://www.songlyrics.com/mary-did-you-know/mary-did-you-know-lyrics/>

person that you became... and as you grew up, and as you experienced all that joy, but all that suffering too, that you were lovingly created by this same very little Baby? That you were uniquely crafted by Him, to go through your life, the life that He had planned for you. “Mary... did you know?”

And about all that suffering, Mary, that you had to endure later... did you know that your Baby Boy had already previously wept for you about all of that? About what you would do and suffer for Him? Did you know that He already foreknew that you were destined as His earthly mother to go through all that suffering that was intended for you? That He knew you would endure all of it because of your love for Him? Did you know that it was your Baby Boy Who gave you a heads up about what you were going to experience in your future, all that you were about to suffer for Him? That you would do it because of your great, enduring, true love for Him? Did you know that it was no other than your Baby Boy who gave Simeon a special blessing for you? That He pre-inspired Simeon to let you know in advance that “your Baby Boy was destined for the fall and rising of many of your people in Israel? And that a sword would pierce through your own soul, Mary, in the process? [But] that He had to allow you to go through all of this so that the thoughts of many [other] hearts could also be revealed?”³

“Mary, did you know?” “Did *you* know?” Yes, my brothers and sisters here today, in person or watching this on video... “Did *you* know?” “Do you know?”

III. THE ENTICEMENT OF YAHUAH [God]

My dear *sisters* here today, have you ever wondered about what you might have done if you were at Mary’s young and impressionable age, and one of YAHUAH [God]’s right hand angels, like Gabriel, came to you and told you, “The RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of ELOHIYM [God]”?⁴

Or my dear *brothers* here today, have you ever wondered about what you might have done if you were at Jeremiah’s young and impressionable age, and YAHUAH [God] said directly to you: “*before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*”⁵

³ Luke 2:34-35.

⁴ Luke 1:35.

⁵ Jeremiah 1:5

Well, to begin with my dear *brothers*, you probably would have said something similar to Jeremiah who replied, “Ah, ADONAI YAHUAH [Lord God], behold, I cannot speak, for I am a [just a] youth”.⁶

But then, YAHUAH [God] would probably have responded back to you as He did with Jeremiah, “do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you.”⁷

IV. ENDURING THE SUFFERING THAT FOLLOWS

Now... to both my *brothers* and my sisters, this would probably be a good time to tell you... to remind you that when the suffering later came to Jeremiah, as we know that it surely came to Mary – that her church and the people in her community would accuse her of having an illicit sexual relationship – that Jeremiah would (later) accuse YAHUAH [God] of unfairly enticing him. Jeremiah later said when he was later, in his older age as he was enduring his suffering, “O YAHUAH [LORD], You enticed me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. [Now] I am a laughingstock daily; everyone mocks me. For when I speak, I cry out; I shout, ‘violence and plunder!’ Because [You] made [me. I am] a reproach and a derision [I am mocked] daily.”⁸ Have you ever questioned YAHUAH [God] in this way?

V. YOU TOO WERE KNOWN BEFORE YOU WERE FORMED

Now would also be a good time to remind you, that as you are going through some of the same suffering, the broken heartedness that Mary went through... or some of the same suffering, the ridicule that Jeremiah went through, and that you might now regret having been previously enticed by The Almighty, maybe in your youth, that each of you too, as was Jeremiah, as was Mary, and as are all the babies now in development in their mothers’ wombs and even now emerging, that “before He formed you in the womb YAHUAH [God] knew you; [and] before you were born, He sanctified you, He ordained you...”

The Apostle Paul, who was also personally pre-known by and pre-chosen by YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself, tells us that “whom YAHUAH [God] predestined, these He also called ...” And in Paul’s continuing statement, we begin to also find our hope,

⁶ Jeremiah 1:6.

⁷ Jeremiah 1:7-8.

⁸ Jeremiah 20:7-8.

when he says that these, meaning you and I, are predestined and called... that these, whom He has called, you and I, YAHUAH [God] also justified; and whom He justified, these (you and I) He also glorified.”⁹ Yes, it is in His promises to those of us that He has foreknown, that He has predestined, that He has called, that He has also justified, and that He will also eventually, yes... “wait for it” ... that He will eventually glorify. So now you and I should begin or continue to find hope in our present situation and in our future, as we reflect on our own special, unique enticement.

VI. FINDING HOPE IN YOUR ENTICEMENT

Brothers and sisters, maybe you are here today... down and out for many good reasons. Maybe you have lost your job due to the COVID-19 pestilence. Or maybe you have been asked to do something at work that is not possible for you to do. Or, maybe the work that has been assigned to you is beyond your capability, mentally or physically. Or maybe your employer doesn't understand that you need your weekly Sabbath off. Or maybe they have told you that you don't quite fit into their corporate focus anymore.

Or maybe it has nothing to do with work. Maybe you are down and out because you had been, and maybe you are still praying that the world would be a better place. You recently prayed and fasted, expecting that your future would be more secure, that there would be less suffering in the world. Maybe you prayed and fasted so that the laws of the country and the behavior of the people would become more righteous, more Christ-like. May, that we could all just get along somehow. Let's face it, these days, especially now in 2020, we are living in some very troublesome times. We have many catastrophic events taking place in the environment, in people groups, in politics, in the church, and the list goes on and on.

I don't know of a better time and place dear dear brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ], than now... as a time that we should reflect on the fact that our YAHUAH [God], our YAHUSHA [Jesus] pre-knew each of us, that He predestined each us for greatness, for such a time as this... that He has a calling for us that is as unique to each of us as each of us is in this time. We are reminded that it is His will for us to be in the here and now, in this particular time in our lives... Yes, He has looked at us even before He formed us, and He has not made any mistakes in bringing you to this time and place. He has surely already wept over and continues to weep over you and me as we each endure all the chaos and calamity in our own particular lives.

⁹ Romans 8:30

Yes, He loved you as you were developing inside your mother’s tummy, and as you were born... as He is loving those others who are now just developing and recently born, and each one for a special purpose... He was and continues to look at you and me in an even more lovingly, and an even more adoring way than we picture how the young Mary looked at and loved at her Baby Boy YAHUSHA [Jesus].

Even now, YAHUAH [Jesus] knows about all our suffering – now and yet to come – because we are each uniquely created, lovingly crafted by Him, to go through our own special life for Him, because He knew you and I would accept His enticement toward us, for He promised us as He did Jeremiah: “for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says YAHUAH [the LORD], thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”¹⁰ Yes, I know that my true love has enticed me to live out the life that He has made special for me, although it is hard to see and understand at times. Yet, I set out to travel the road He put before me today, and each day as I go forward in my life. And now, as you and I realize that everything we are experiencing, whether it is our suffering or our joy, it is in it all of it that we will find our special, predestined purpose. For even now, our beautiful Savior is telling us the same thing He told Jeremiah...

“Therefore, prepare yourself and arise, and speak to ... all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, lest I dismay you before them. For behold, I have made you this day a fortified city and an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land, against the kings (presidents and other world leaders) ..., against its princes, against its priests (the false clergy), and against the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you,’ says YAHUAH [the LORD], ‘to deliver you.’”¹¹

VII. DOING ALL FOR MY TRUE LOVE

When we looked at today’s picture on the bulletin, and we were told that today’s message title is “My True Love”, we probably thought at first that the baby boy was the true love of his mother. But then later, we realized that it was actually the Baby Boy YAHUSHA [Jesus] Whom had first loved his mother, and not the other way around, and we realized that it is YAHUSHA [Jesus] Whom is our first love.

And so now, as you and I wake up each day to endure yet another day of life, whether it seems that we are above water or falling down into the depths, that we

¹⁰ Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ Jeremiah 1:17-19.

remember our days of enticement. Yes, I remember where and when YAHUSHA [Jesus] was outside my door, outside my heart and mind... when He was patiently knocking... when He gently tugging at my rein... asking me if He could come inside so that He could dine with me, spend some quality time with me, to sharing my life's moments, the good and the bad, together with Him. He wants so badly that we will find peace and joy through Him... find the green pastures and still waters that He leads us beside. So yes, it is in the enduring together with Him each day, that He will restore our soul, and He will lead us into paths of righteousness where we will willingly go today, and each day forward, for His name's sake. And why do I do this? Because He is our One True Love.

VIII. CONCLUSION – MUSICAL MEDITATION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpaDxgZ02yo>

References & Credits:

1. "How Well Do You Know 'Mary Did You Know?'" , "Sheet Music Direct. Retrieved December 30, 2018. an interview with the songwriter, Mark Lowry ... originally conducted by Martha Lyon for AbsolutelyGospel.com.
2. "Mary Did You Know? Lyrics," SONGLYRICS: Know the Words, Accessed 11/14/20, <http://www.songlyrics.com/mary-did-you-know/mary-did-you-know-lyrics/>