



THE STORY OF GOD'S GREAT PLAN

MARY,
DID YOU
KNOW?

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PHIL BOATWRIGHT

MARK LOWRY

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The song "Mary, Did You Know?"—
words by Mark Lowry; music by Buddy Greene
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Among the major artists who have recorded "Mary, Did You Know?"—
Kenny Rogers/Wynonna, Kathy Mattea,
Kathleen Battle/Christopher Parkening, Gary Chapman,
Michael English, Billy Dean, Donny Osmond,
the Gaither Vocal Band... and Mark Lowry.

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A M O T H E R ' S M O M E N T S

UOU MAY THINK Mark Lowry's mother needs a crown in glory just for being his mother. At least after she raised him she went back to college and got a *cum laude* graduate degree in psychology, and she says that after what Mark taught her, school was a breeze!

I just know that I for one am glad that Beverly Lowry gave birth and gave time to a son called Mark. He is a gift to my life, and — as funny as he is — one of the most serious and dearest people I know.

I suppose if Mark's mother had known what she was getting into when she first held that little boy in her arms, she might have had second thoughts. But then if any of our mothers had known all that lay ahead, they might have backed out of the deal.

As a mother, I know I am glad I didn't know it all. But now as I look at my son, I am, more than anything, thankful. Thankful that God chose me to be his mother. Thankful for the whole experience we have walked through together to bring us to this moment.

Thankful that no matter what the future holds, God chose the experience of “my son” to make me what I am becoming.

Mary, too, more than any mother in history, was shaped by her son...literally! She knew less, yet knew more than any mother who ever lived, about what she was getting herself into. From the vantage point of Golgotha, however, she must have been overwhelmed at how little she had known that night when an angel blew into her life the Breath of Life.

But — as with all mothering — the hardest, most painful moments are eclipsed by the glory of watching your child resurrected into something more amazing than you could have ever imagined. And every mother knows that the most amazing gift of all is finding that only when she said “goodbye” to her son did she hear the words and know the reality: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Mary, did you know...?

GLORIA GAITHER



A S O N G I S B O R N

IT STARTED WITH a bunch of questions. Questions I'd been pondering since I was a kid.

They were sparked by a comment I heard my mother make many years ago: "If anyone knew Jesus was virgin-born — *Mary* knew. And no one could take that away from her."

Mary knew. And as Jesus grew up and the Father revealed so many things to Him — could He have used Mary to do some of the revealing?

I think so. Can you imagine the bedtime stories Mary must've told Jesus? Stories of stars, stables, and singing angels. Stories of shepherds and wise men from afar. Stories of prophets and priests and promises.

Can you imagine? She had been chosen to deliver God into the world. To nurse Him. To love Him. To protect Him. And, like every mother, to teach Him. She taught God how to walk. She taught Him how to talk. She changed God's diapers. She was chosen by God to raise the Son of God. And she watched Jesus grow in favor with God and man.

But how much did she know? Did she know about Gethsemane? Did she know about the cross? Did she know there would be a resurrection?

There was no one she could turn to for advice. She couldn't go to her mother and ask, "Mom, what was it

like when you had your first virgin-born son?" No one had ever been down that road before. This was a first...and a last.

But what was it like raising God's Son? Did He ever skin His knees? Did He ever wrestle with His little brothers? What subject in school was His best? Did He ever take a fish and feed the neighborhood? Did Mary ever see Him embarrassed? Did she ever have to make Him get a haircut? Did He have a hero? Did He have a girlfriend? Was He a tenor or a bass? Did He laugh a lot? Was He ever moody? Did He ever have a weight problem? Was He ever homesick?

I couldn't get all these questions in the song. And I'll never really have the answers until I get to heaven and ask Mary for myself. Many of these questions probably don't deserve an answer anyway. But I picked a few of my favorites and put them down on paper.

I kept this lyric in my briefcase for several years, trying to get a composer to put music to it. One weekend, while traveling on the Gaithers' bus, I handed it to Buddy Greene and asked if he would give it a try.

He called me the following Monday and sang "Mary, Did You Know?" to me over the phone.

I liked it.

MARK LOWRY





Mary...

did you know

that your

baby boy...