

1. MARY IS BETROTHED TO JESUS (Mt. 1, 18)

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit”

Mary accepts to be the wife of Joseph. Every marriage starts with an acceptance. It’s a life long acceptance that has to endure. Mary accepts and becomes the wife of Joseph.

2. MARY IS A COMMITTED WIFE (Lk 1, 38)

“Then Mary said “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said” and the Angel left her.”

When Mary says YES it is unconditional. There are no if’s and buts. She accepts to be Joseph’s wife without any reservations. And at all times. It is a total commitment and an acknowledgement /submission to God’s plan.

Mary’s YES remains in the affirmative till the end.

3. MARY IS FAITHFUL TO HER HUSBAND (Lk 1,34 and 38)

“Then Mary said to the Angel, “How can this be if I am a virgin?”

Mary is concerned that her faithfulness and chastity is in question and in this situation how can she face Joseph leave alone becoming his wife. But when the angel explains how she will be the mother of Jesus, she understands that she can carry out God’s plan and also remain faithful to Joseph.

The fidelity of Mary is seen in her chaste relationships.

4. MARY IS OBEDIENT TO HER HUSBAND (Mt. 2, 13-15)

“Joseph got up took the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt where he stayed until the death of Herod”.

Mary does not question Joseph’s authority/decisions. Her obedience is not out of compulsion, but mature obedience resulting from the confidence in Joseph and God’s plan. Even in most difficult circumstances Mary listens to the instructions of Joseph.

5 MARY LOVINGLY RELATES TO HER HUSBAND (Lk 2, 44-45)

“They thought he was in the Company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him”

Mary after knowing that Jesus is not with them does not react with accusations and cross arguments. She with Joseph looks for Jesus among the company and not finding him goes back with Joseph to look for him.

6. MARY RESPECTS HER HUSBAND (Lk,2, 48)

“Your father and I were very worried while searching for you”

Mary when questioning Jesus mentions Joseph’s name and thereby impresses on Jesus that both his father as well as mother were concerned and looking for him. Mary puts her husband first.

7. BY DISPLAYING THESE QUALITIES MARY AS A WIFE IS A PRICELESS PEARL

In today's context:

Promising – keeping up to the betrothal/promise made through a total acceptance.

Prayerful – Through prayer seeking Divine assistance to keep the promise and to accept and understand God's plan.

Eager – To live up to the commitment and have a chaste and faithful relationship.

Energetic – To adapt to all situations and be flexible to support her husband's decisions or situations.

Ardent – To relate to her husband and understand him so as to meet his needs. And to be sensitive to his emotions etc.

Respectful – Give the husband the appropriate place no matter what his status outside the family.

Responsible – Understand the role a husband has in the family and allow the role to be played. Simultaneously correct any over lapping through discussion and dialogue.

Loving – Just as God was to his people – the people of Israel and Jesus is to the Church so also as St. Paul writes to the Ephesians.

Luminous – Radiate Jesus to her husband and be a light to him.

1. MOTHERHOOD & CARING CONCERN (LK 1, 39-40)

“Mary then set out for a town in Hills of Judah”

Mary coming to know that Elizabeth is going to have a baby sets out to help her despite her own condition. “Motherhood of Mary goes beyond leaps and bounds.”

2. MARY IS THE MOTHER OF JESUS (LK 2, 6-7)

“They were in Bethlehem when the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to a son, her first born.

By choosing Mary as the mother of Jesus, it was the greatest gift God could give Mary. Eve was the woman who brought sin to the world, but Mary through her motherhood brought salvation.

“Motherhood is the greatest gift to Mankind.”

3. MOTHERHOOD AND AWARENESS (LK 2, 19)

“As for Mary, she treasured all these messages and continually pondered over them.”

Mary never let anything pass by. Whatever she heard and was told to her she listened to the messages, be it through the Angels, shepherds or any other source. She thought over it and thus prepared herself for the reality – “Observe – Judge – Act”.

“Mary as a mother always had the sixth sense”.

4. MOTHERHOOD A GREAT SACRIFICE (LK 2, 35)

“He shall stand as a sign of contradiction while a sword will pierce your own soul”.

Even though Mary is warned of the pain and sorrow to come, she is prepared to perform her role as a mother.

“A genuine mother is ever ready to consume herself for her children”.

5. MOTHERHOOD RESOLVES ANY CRISES (Jn 2 3-5)

“The mother of Jesus said to him, They have no wine”

However his mother said to the servants. “Do whatever he tells you.”

Mary as a mother understands the needs and difficulties not only within her family but also of other families. She reaches out.

“Motherhood understands the difficulties of others.”

6. MOTHERHOOD OF MARY IS UNIVERSAL” (Jn 19, 25-27)

“He said to the mother “Woman, this is your son. Then he said to the disciple “There is your mother”.

Motherhood of Mary does not stop at her doorstep or with her immediate family only. Her motherhood embraces all outside and beyond her family.

“Mary as a mother embraces all her children and intercedes for them all.

We therefore can conclude that “**Mary as a mother is a Dazzling Diamond**”

In today's context:

Dynamic – Ever alert, aware and able to read and decipher the signs of the times.

Daring – To be able to fight the tide and thus lead her children and family and imbibe good Christian values.

Integral – Build up her integrity by practicing and witnessing good moral conduct.

Inspiring – with the power of the Holy Spirit the Children and family through prayer and example.

Active – Always serving and being available to the children and families all around, available for any crisis.

Accommodating – Never getting disappointed or disheartened but taking everything in her stride.

Magnanimous – Motherhood is universal. It encompasses all. It calls for great sacrifices forgetting oneself.

Merciful – Calls for a high level of reconciliation and the ability to accept back all no matter what they have done.

Open – The ability to listen, understand and to be approachable to all. No favoritisms.

Obliging – To have a solution for all problems and situations.

Noble – To be able to rise above all situations and be like the New Eve – bringing new life to family.

Dedicated / Determined – Ability to continue with God's plan and the vocation of motherhood. Keeping this vocation as the primary objective and others such as career, money, etc. next.

Partners in mission

Equal in dignity

Acceptance of each other

Responsible for family

Loving and life giving

