

OCTOBER 16

“HE IS GOING TO USE YOU, SO HE CAN BE SEEN THROUGH YOU.”

READ

Luke 1:26-38

When you become a believer, your life will be torn to pieces. If you can somehow balance that with the joy of Jesus, you will understand the Holy Scriptures. “Rejoice highly favored one!” That was Gabriel’s salutation to Mary. She was about to be ridiculed, called a prostitute, and could have been stoned to death. That’s what she suffered because the favor of the Lord was upon her. If you say you want the hand of the Lord upon you, look out, because your definition of blessed and favored may be a little different from God’s. Israel was blessed among all nations, but He let them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. If you think that because you’re going through a tough time, God has turned His back on you, you could be exactly wrong. It could be because His hand is upon you. When God favors you, He is going to use you so He can be seen through you, but His favor just may bring heartache and pain. No one regarded Mary highly, except heaven. The world didn’t, the church didn’t, but God did. Look what she had to suffer. Ultimately she stood at the foot of the cross and watched her son be murdered. Mary didn’t understand and didn’t argue. She said, “Let it be to me according to Your Word.”

PRAY

Thank You for Your hand upholding me. You will guide me and Your right hand will save me. Thank You for the faith to trust You.

From December 21, 2003