

## CHAPTER 9: MARY: THE STORY OF VOCATION

### GOSPEL READINGS: Luke 1:46-55

Scot McKnight defines **vocation** as both the general task of living out the Jesus Creed as a follower of Christ *and* as the specific and “special assignment that only you can do”. The word comes from the Latin word for *calling* and it evokes our imaginations to picture what we want to dedicate our time *or whole life* to.

1. What are your initial thoughts about this definition of *vocation*?
  2. Before the visit from Gabriel, what do you think Mary would say her purpose was?
  3. What changed for Mary?
  4. How did that purpose affect her relationships? (with God, with her soon-to-be-husband, with her future child/children)?
  5. **Read aloud Mary’s song** (Luke 1:46-55). What are the implications of what she is saying? (personally, socially, nationally, *theologically*...?)
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Os Guinness wrote “The truth is not that God is finding us a place for our gifts but that God has created us and our gifts for a place of his choosing—and we will only be ourselves when we are finally there.”

6. Based on Os’ quote, do you think we can know our giftedness if we do not know our identity?
7. Who do you know who carries a significant understanding of his/her vocation?
8. How would you characterize *your* vocation in the present?
9. How might that purpose grow/change in the future or is this a *lifelong* vocation?
10. What would change if you were to embrace your vocation? (or embrace it *more*?)
11. *How does your vocation reveal your love of God & love of neighbor?*

Next week: Chapter 10, Peter: The Story of Conversion