



**CEO Devotional – June 2, 2014**  
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***Think of Mary***

Do I really want to be blessed by God?

At a recent SLI class, we talked about Mary being blessed and I think most of us glossed over that statement since we have all heard it so many times. Sure Mary was blessed and didn't she have it so wonderful being Jesus' mom....

Let's look a little closer:

- Mary was a virgin who had to explain to her fiancée that she was pregnant – that must have been a fun conversation!
- What do you think the extended family thought of Mary and Joseph – “yup pregnant before married – how shameful.”
- What about going to the market back in those days? I can just hear the old ladies saying – “Mary's expecting but not pregnant – what a disgrace to her family” – picture the looks she got.
- The time arrives for this special baby to be born and they deliver the baby in a barn – God this isn't what I was expecting!
- Mary, Joseph, and the baby have to flee for their lives before King Herod kills them – life on the run (to a strange country, no job, don't speak the language in Egypt, forced to be away from the baby's grandparents).
- No parent should have to bury their child – but Mary had to watch him die a cruel death on the cross and then bury him.

If the above happened to us the question might be – if this is blessed then what does cursed look like?

This certainly doesn't look like a fun walk in the park....but do you think Mary would trade this experience in for anything?

As we go through different things in life that sometimes makes us question if God is really blessing us – think of Mary.