



**Q: Who is my mother/brothers?**

**A: Anyone who does God's will,  
even you folks right here!**

*(Mark 3:31-35)*

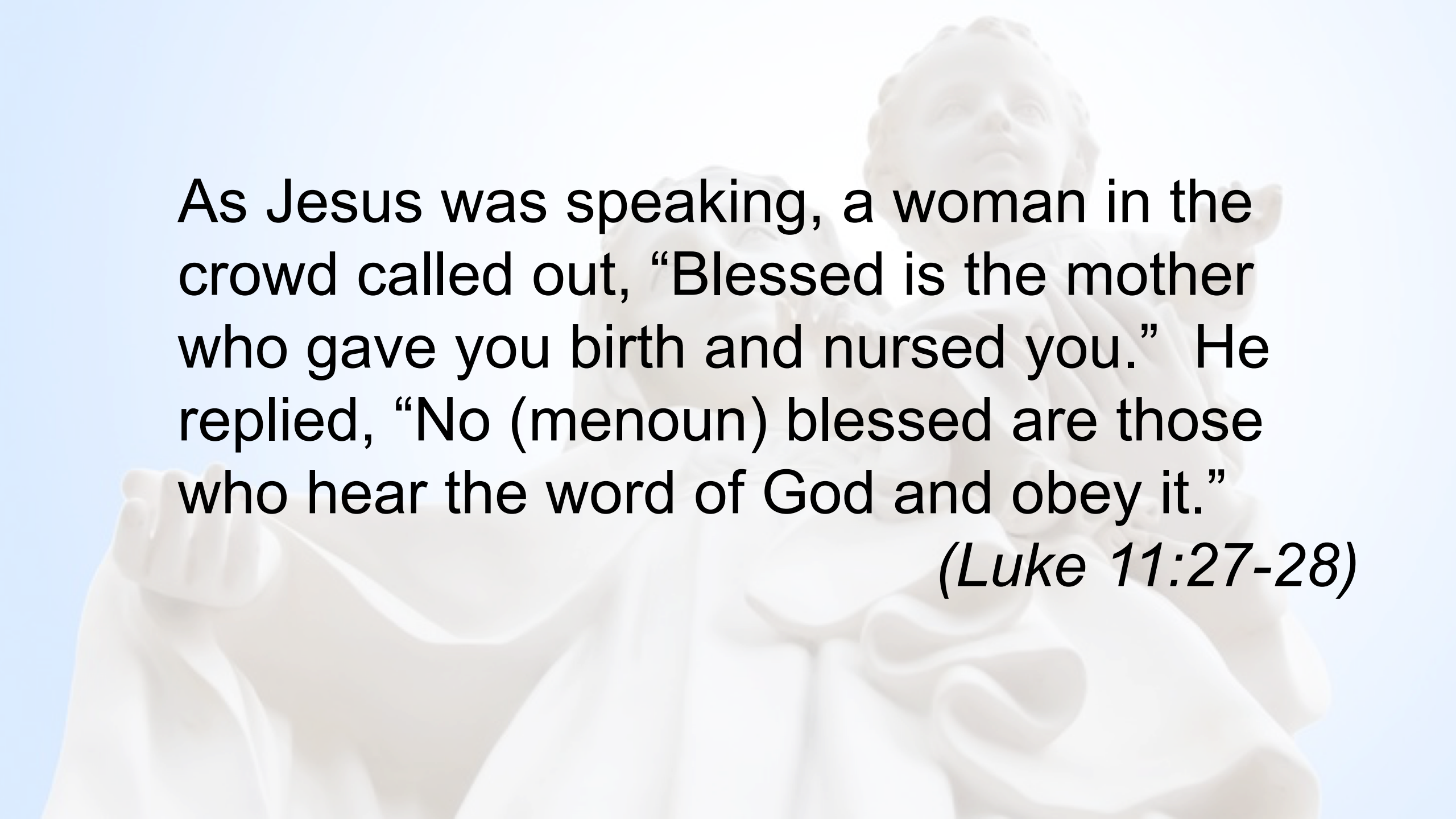


A SPIRITUAL BOND creates the reality of “family” more truly than genetics.

The unifying purpose of OBEYING GOD transcends family ties.

Family is actually a heavenly (not exactly) concept (*Eph. 1:14-15*).





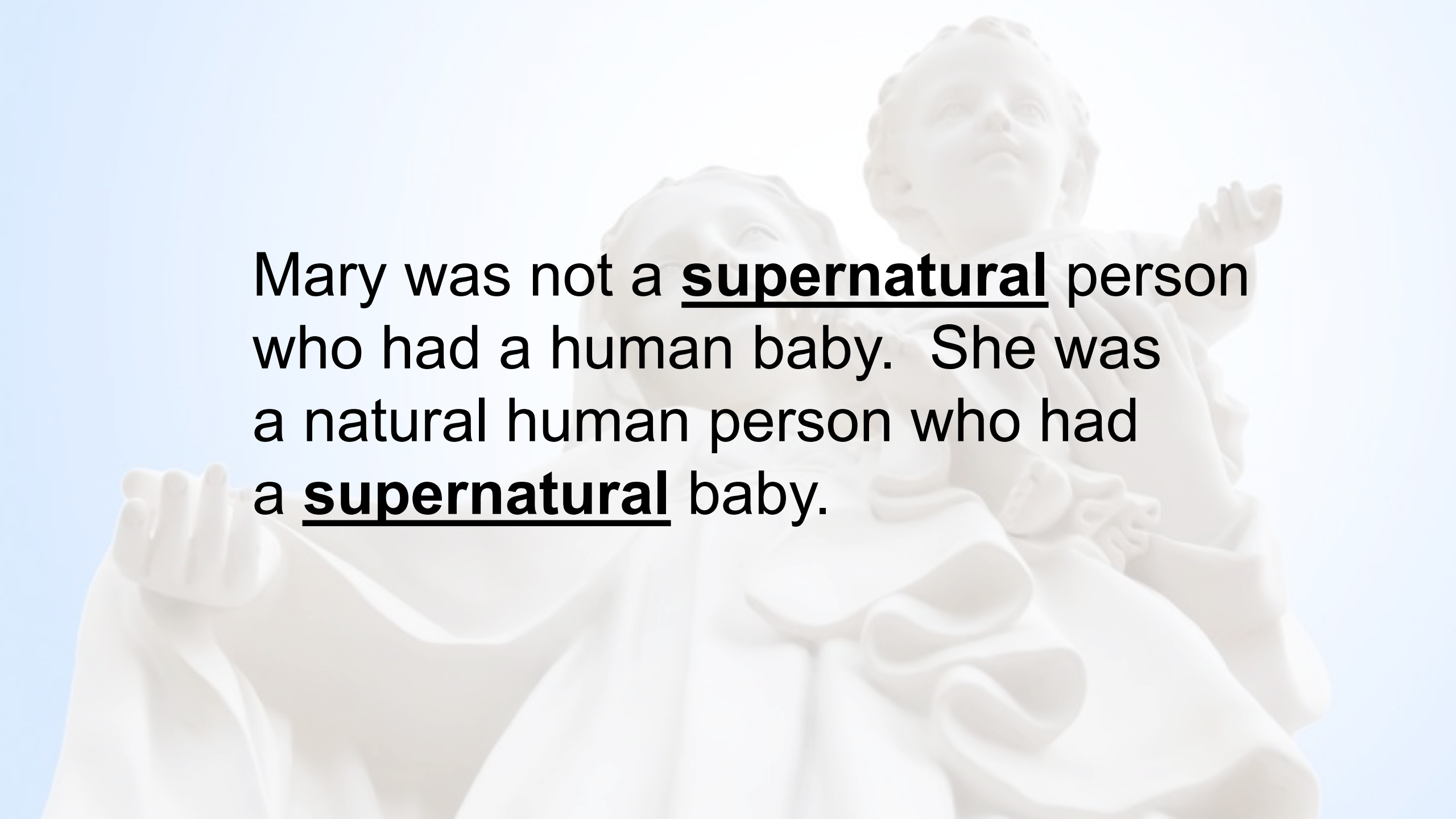
As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.” He replied, “No (menoun) blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

*(Luke 11:27-28)*



**Q: What is the meaning of adelphos (brother)? Mark 6:1-4**

**A:** Offspring of the same parents. Always... except when used symbolically. Mary and Joseph had children together after the birth of Jesus... a very plain fact from the NT writings.



Mary was not a **supernatural** person who had a human baby. She was a natural human person who had a **supernatural** baby.



God **conceived** the baby (*Luke 1:34-35*)

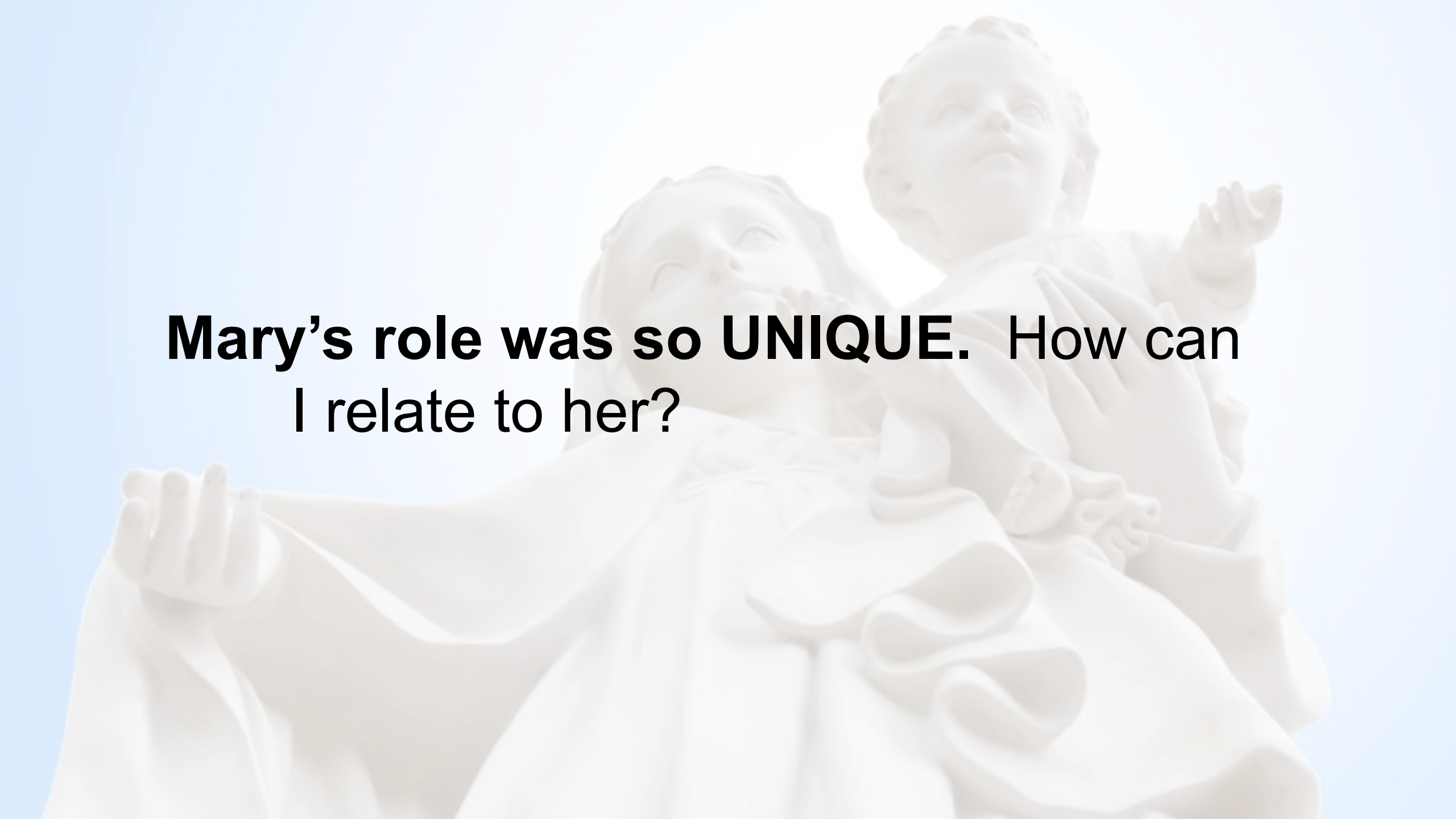
This was the only option to **avoid** “sin” [sinful nature passed on from parents to child]



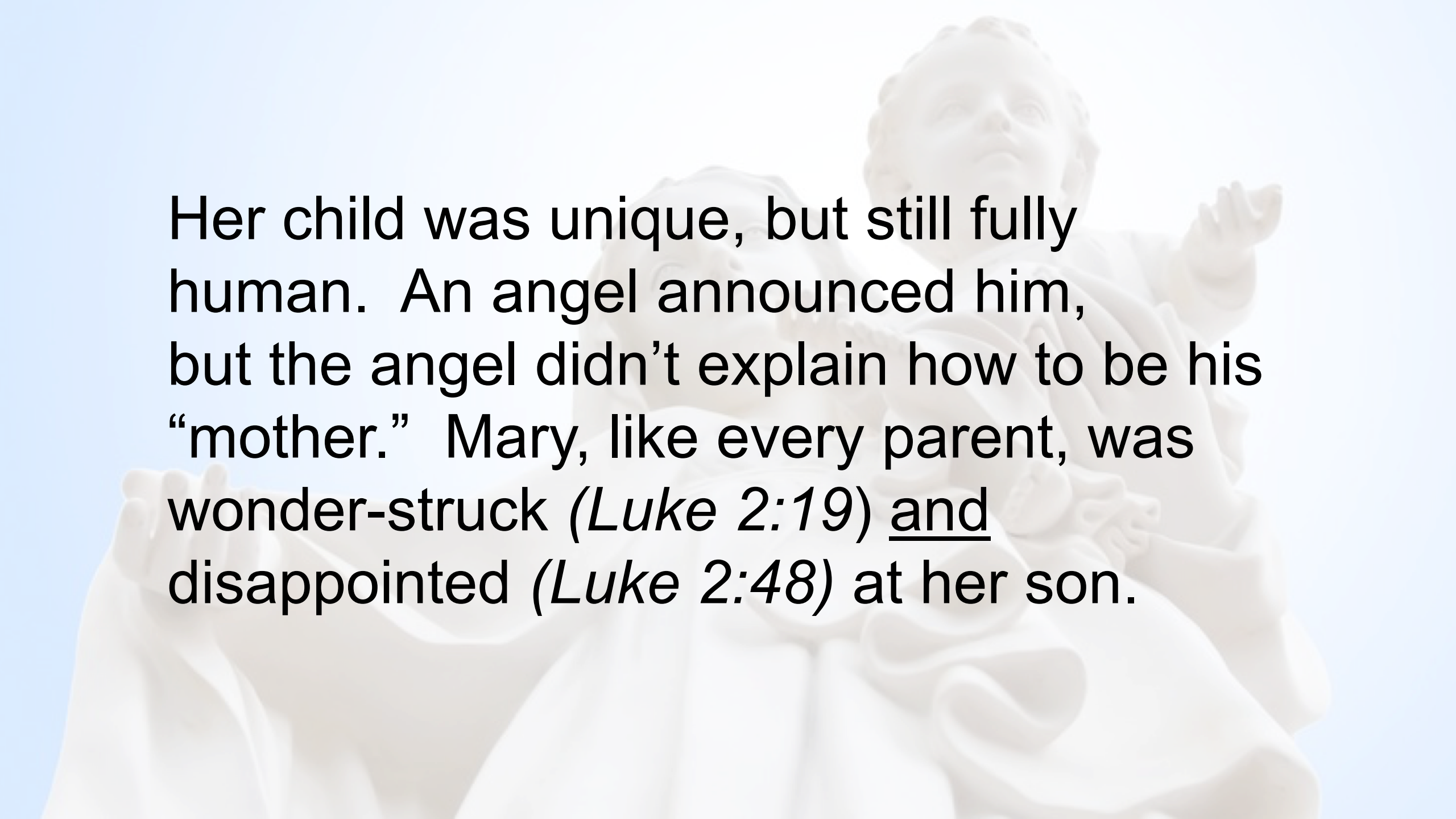


Mary **carried** the baby **(Luke 2:5-6)**

This was the only option to **achieve**  
“substitution” [human > human]

A white marble statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. Mary is depicted with a serene expression, looking upwards and to the right. She wears a long, flowing robe with deep folds. The Christ Child is seated on her lap, looking up at her with a gentle expression. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

**Mary's role was so UNIQUE. How can I relate to her?**

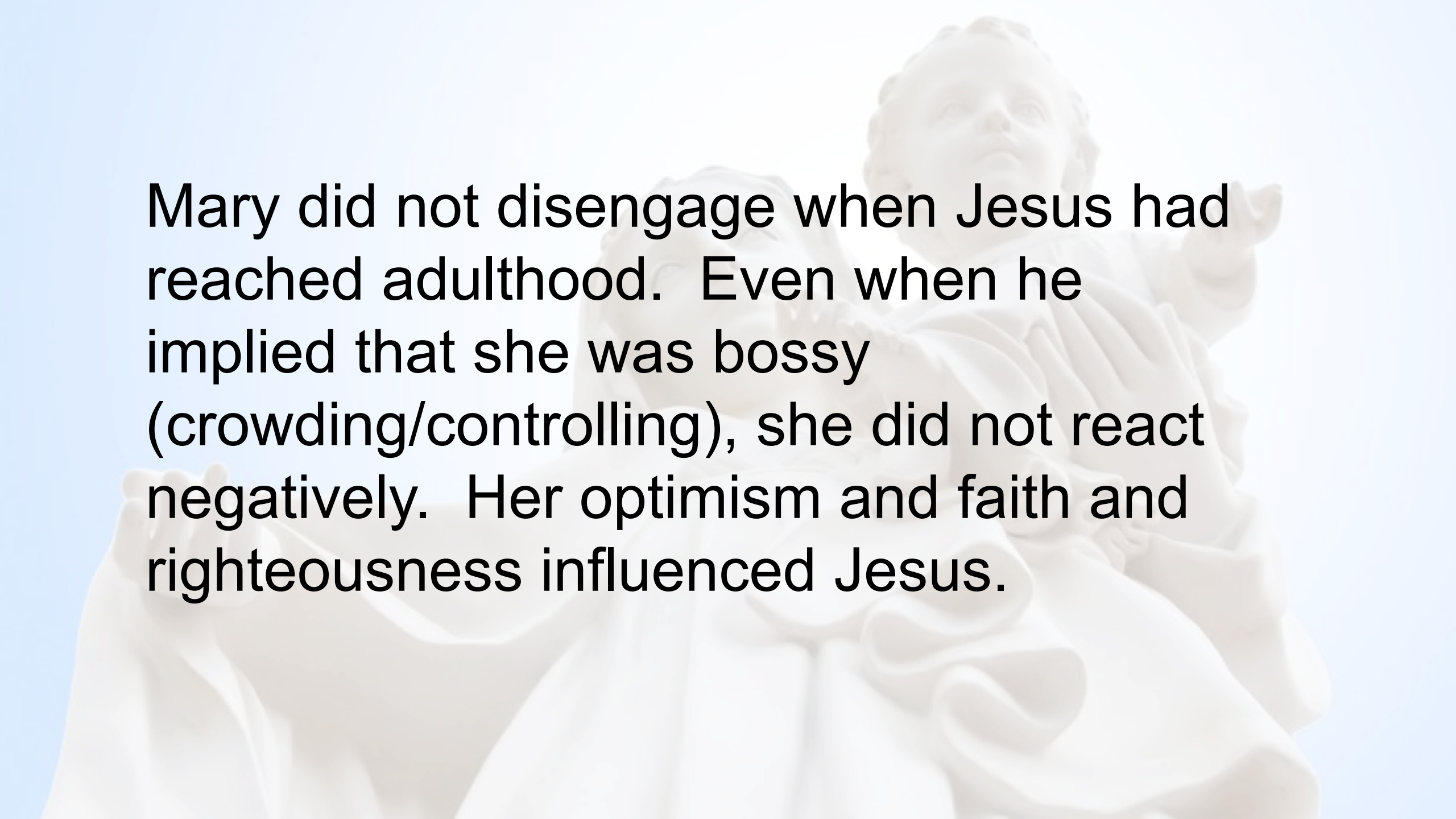


Her child was unique, but still fully human. An angel announced him, but the angel didn't explain how to be his “mother.” Mary, like every parent, was wonder-struck (*Luke 2:19*) and disappointed (*Luke 2:48*) at her son.

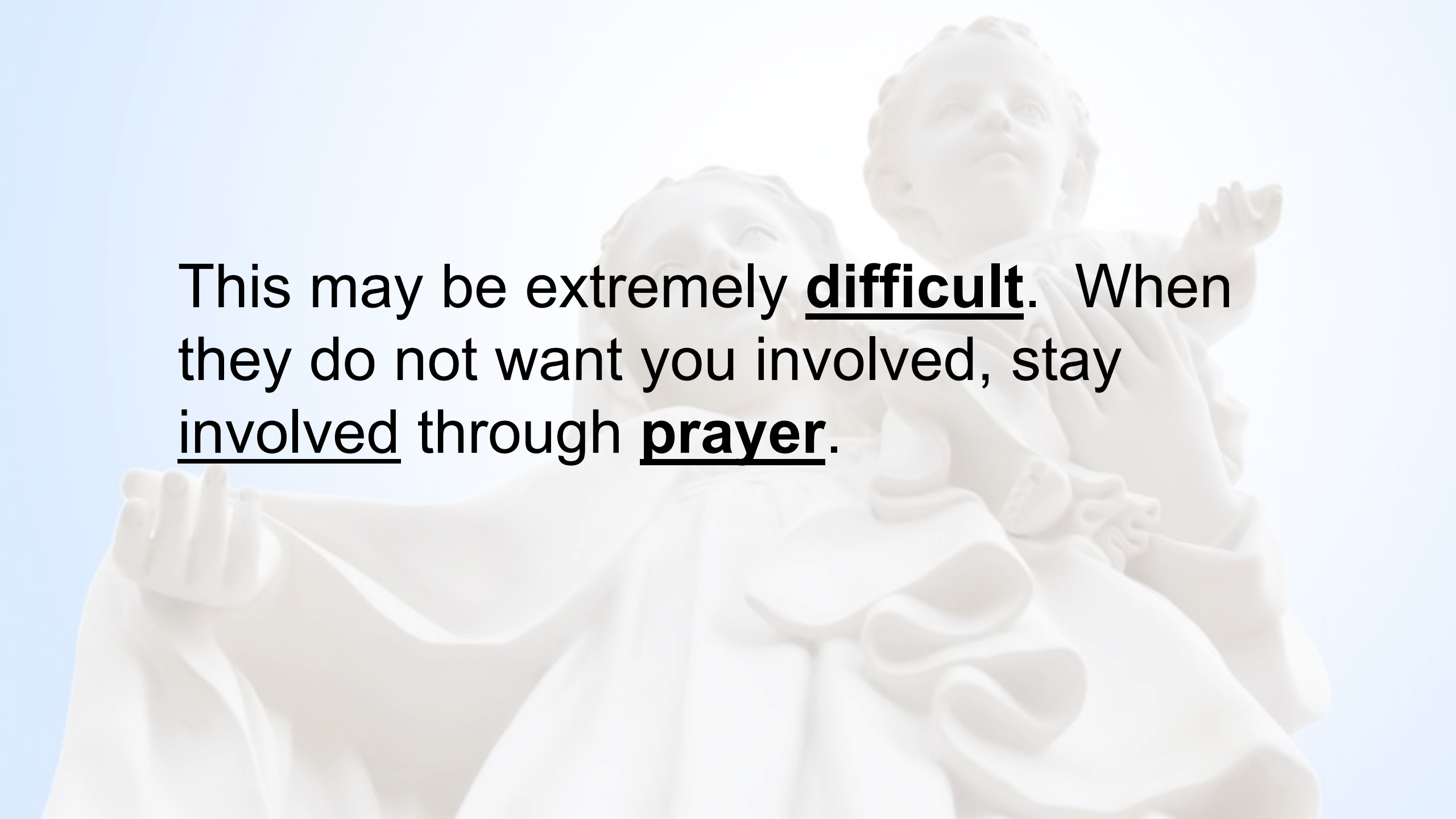
A white marble statue of a woman holding a child, set against a light blue background. The woman is looking up and to the right, and the child is looking up and to the left. The statue is positioned in the center of the frame, with the woman's arms and the child's body visible. The text is overlaid on the statue.

Pay attention to the unique **qualities**  
of your child... **affirm** them!

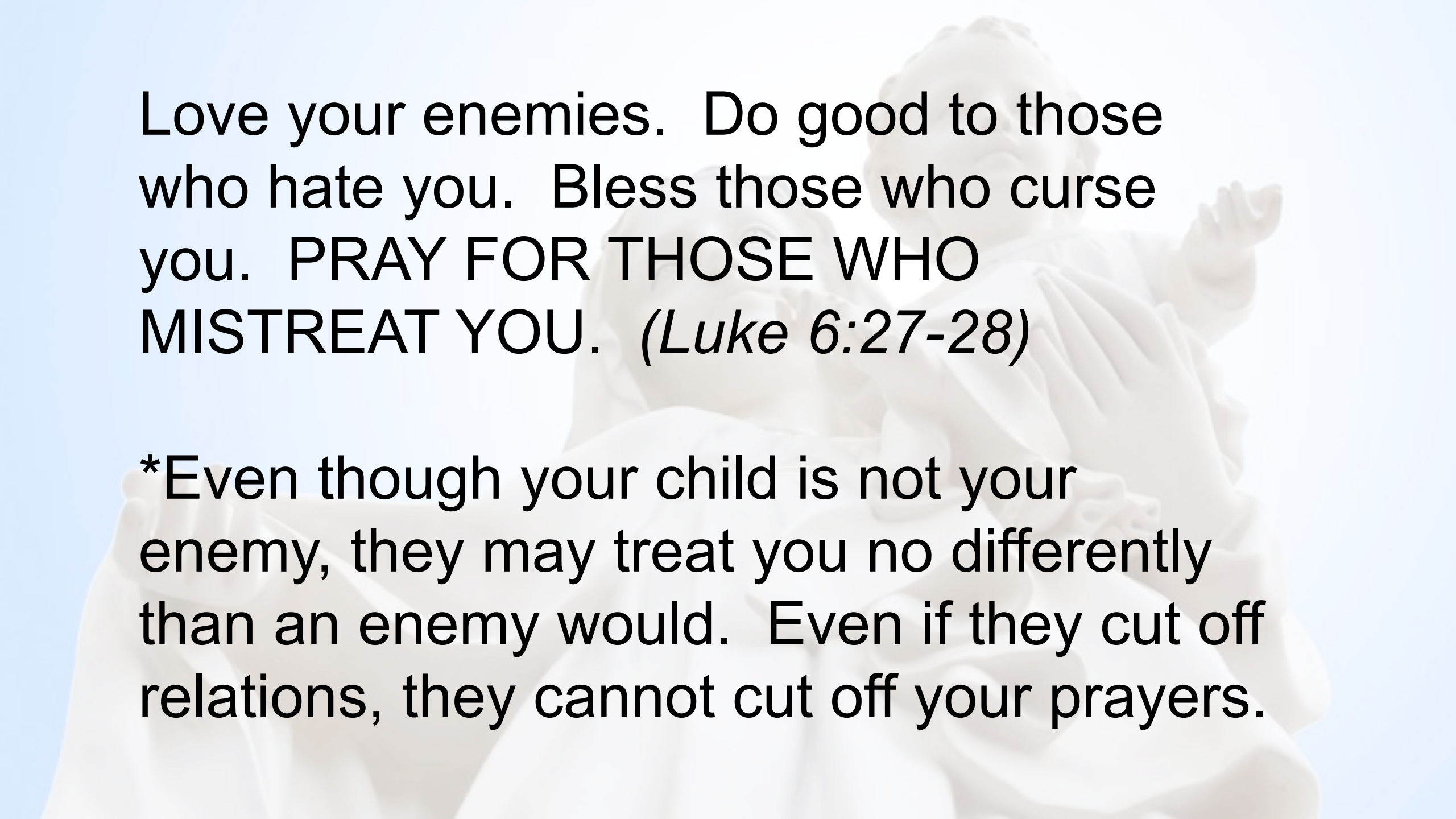




Mary did not disengage when Jesus had reached adulthood. Even when he implied that she was bossy (crowding/controlling), she did not react negatively. Her optimism and faith and righteousness influenced Jesus.

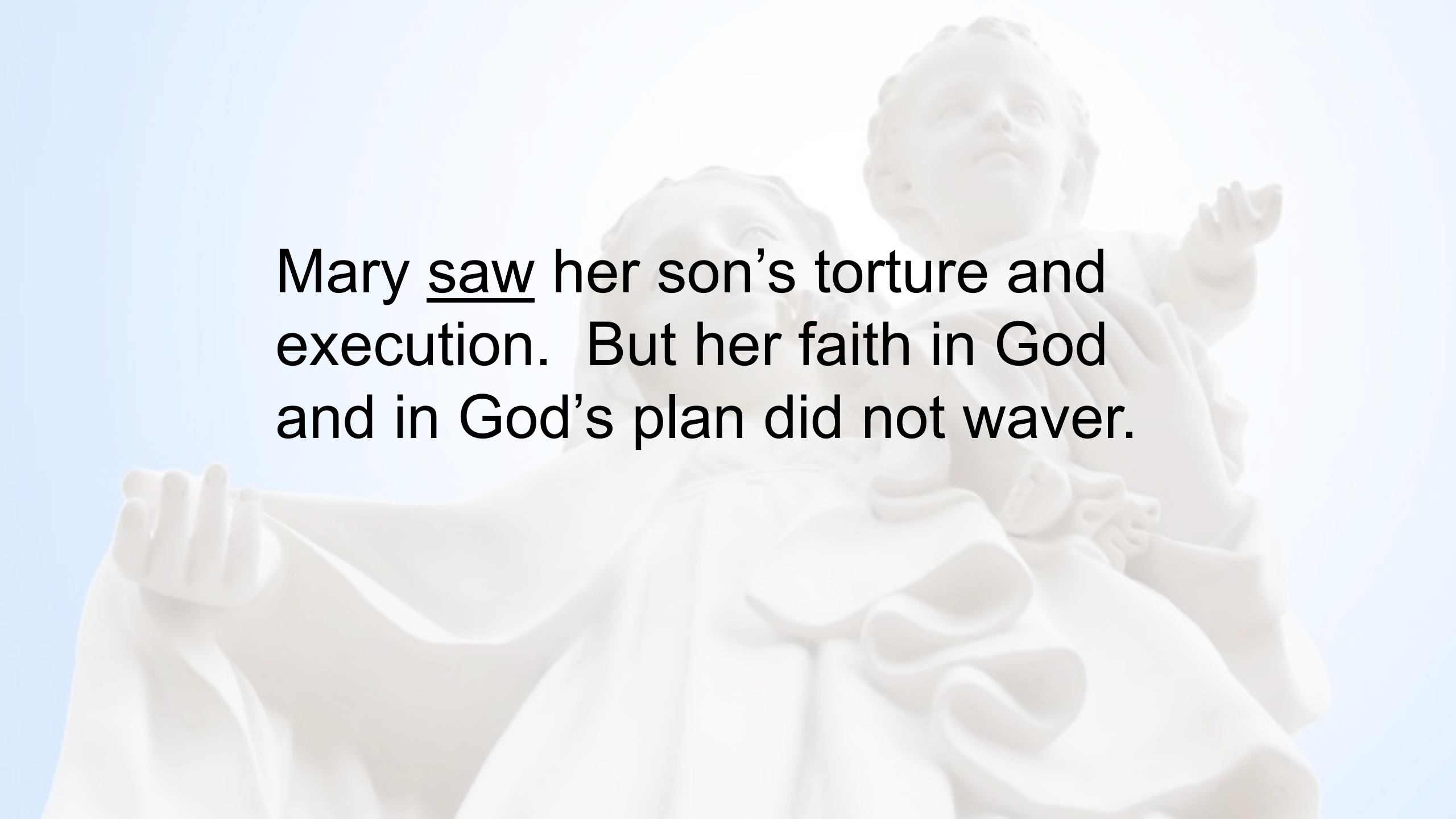


This may be extremely **difficult**. When they do not want you involved, stay **involved** through **prayer**.



Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU. *(Luke 6:27-28)*

\*Even though your child is not your enemy, they may treat you no differently than an enemy would. Even if they cut off relations, they cannot cut off your prayers.

A faint, white sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child, set against a light blue background. The sculpture is centered and slightly faded, serving as a background for the text. Mary is depicted with her arms outstretched, holding the Christ Child who is looking upwards. The text is overlaid on the sculpture.

Mary saw her son's torture and execution. But her faith in God and in God's plan did not waver.





Do not allow your **traumatic experiences** to cause **bitterness** within your **soul**!

Perhaps Mary's greatest legacy to us is this example of faith so strong that it did not waver through the most excruciating event that can be imagined.