



**Responding to New Realities**

# Mary the Ordinary Woman (1:26,27)

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**“The tone of the setting of Jesus’ birth matches the tone of His ministry. The great God of heaven sends the gift of salvation to humans in a serene unadorned package of simplicity.”**

**DARRELL BOCK**

**Responding to New Realities**

“Zechariah and Elizabeth are at the end of their long lives, while Mary and Joseph are beginning theirs. What God does in the world has nothing to do with our ages or our hometowns. God uses whomever He wills.”

THABITI ANYABWILE

**Responding to New Realities**



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# Mary the Chosen Mother (1:28–38)

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# **Mary the Chosen Mother**

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“When it comes to Mary, people tend to go to one of two extremes. They either magnify her so much that Jesus takes second place, or they ignore her and fail to give her the esteem she deserves.”

WARREN WIERSBE

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“[But] the emphasis is on the greatness of the Son, not the greatness of the mother.”

WARREN WIERSBE

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“Christianity may have never been unfamiliar to you. But if you have never stood and looked at the Gospel and found it ridiculous, impossible, inconceivable, I don’t think you have really understood it.”

TIM KELLER

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**“We don’t have to stumble at Jesus’ deity and humanity. The angel assures Mary and assures us, ‘Nothing will be impossible with God.’ The moment you admit the existence of God, you must deny the impossible.”**

**THABITI ANYABWILE**

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**“The only way a person can genuinely say what Mary says is to believe that God’s plan is better than our plans for ourselves.”**

**THABITI ANYABWILE**

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**“[Mary] experienced the grace of God and believed the Word of God, and therefore she could be used by the Spirit [of God] to accomplish the will of God.”**

**WARREN WIERSBE**

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# Mary the Blessed Relative (1:39–45)

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# **Mary the Blessed Relative**

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Nazareth



Nazareth



**Judean Hills**



Judean Hills

**“Two themes: (1) Mary is a forerunner of the true believer who trusts and responds to God’s word. (2) Blessing is grounded in God’s bringing His promises to completion.”**

**DARRELL BOCK**

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**“Kneeling beside the manger is a girl of no status or means who said ‘yes’ to a Divine summons to be a part of the central event in all of history.”**

**JOHN STONESTREET**

**Responding to New Realities**



“When confronted with the profound and unexpected gift of being mother to Christ — a burden she would bear not just for nine months but for a lifetime — she accepted. Because of her obedience, our burdens are lifted.”

JOHN STONESTREET

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**But Mary treasured up all these things  
and pondered them in her heart.**

**LUKE 2:19**

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# Mary the Humble Servant (1:46–56)

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# **Mary the Humble Servant**

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“Our greatest motive for surrendering to Him cannot be for what He will do *in* us. It must be to love Him for what He did *for* us.”

TIM KELLER

**Responding to New Realities**

“In that brutal shame-and-honor culture, she knew that she was accepting God’s will even at the risk of her life. But Jesus accepted God’s will knowing it would cost Him everything.”

TIM KELLER

**Responding to New Realities**

**Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in Your deliverance.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:1**

**Responding to New Realities**



**“There is no one holy like the Lord;  
there is no one besides You; there  
is no Rock like our God.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:2**

**Responding to New Realities**

**“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by Him deeds are weighed.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:3**

**Responding to New Realities**

**“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:4**

**Responding to New Realities**

**“Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:5**

**Responding to New Realities**

**“The Lord brings death and makes  
alive; He brings down to the grave  
and raises up.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:6**

**Responding to New Realities**

**“The Lord sends poverty and wealth;  
He humbles and He exalts.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:7**

**Responding to New Realities**

“He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s; on them He has set the world.”

1 SAMUEL 2:8

**Responding to New Realities**

**“He will guard the feet of His faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.”**

**1 SAMUEL 2:9**

**Responding to New Realities**



**“Christian faith is not a negotiation but a surrender. It means to take your hands off your life. So surrender to Him, and don’t underestimate what He can do in and through you, if you put yourself in His hands.”**

TIM KELLER

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**“God interrupts Mary’s life with a powerful and revealing plan. When God’s will is made clear in life and we obey, nothing is impossible.”**

**DAVID KARN**

**Responding to New Realities**

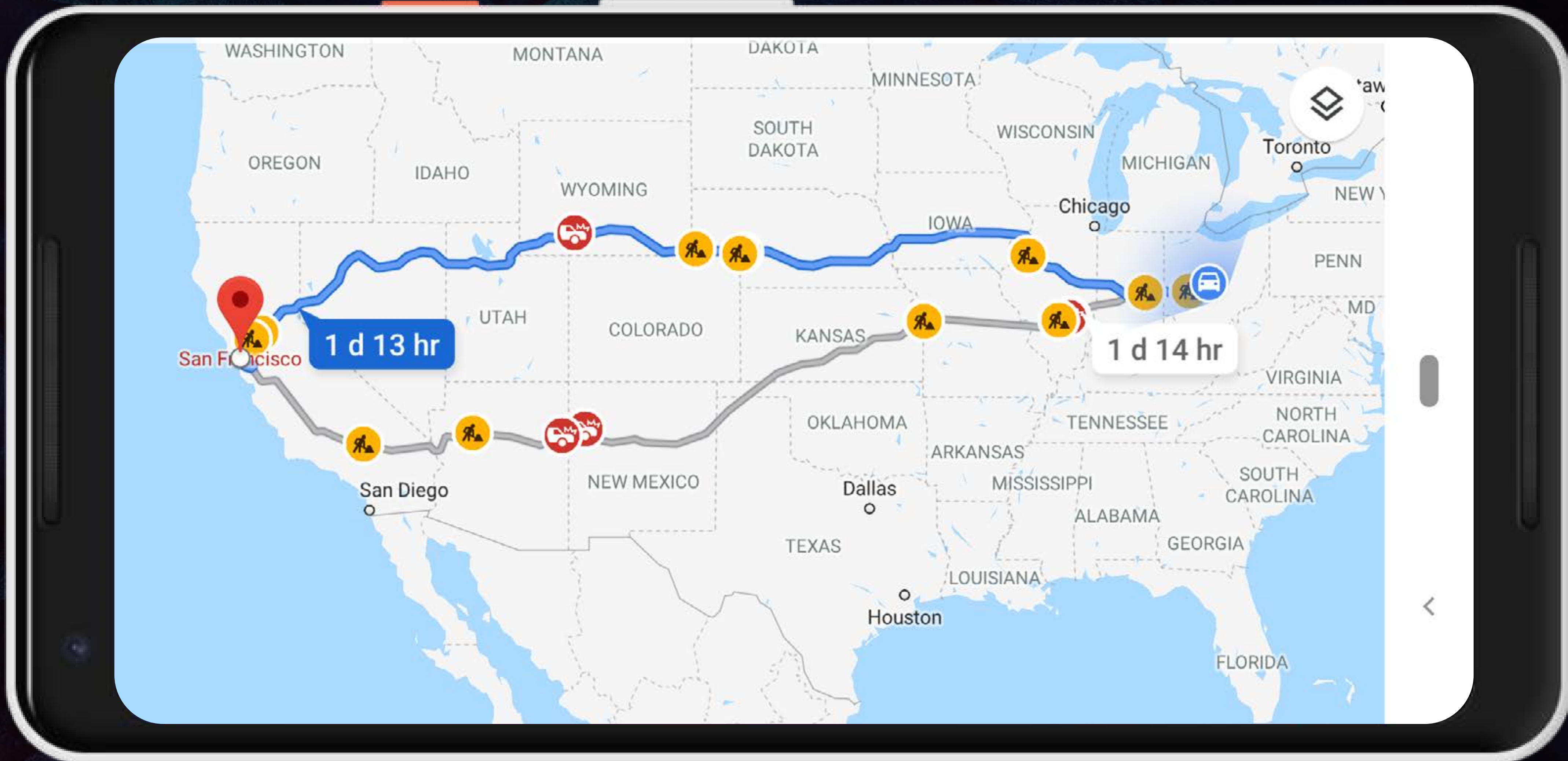
**“God’s will is not always discovered in dramatic invitation, but instead through simple obedience. As we obey the Lord and live transformed lives, we will be able to discern the will of God.”**

**DAVID KARN**

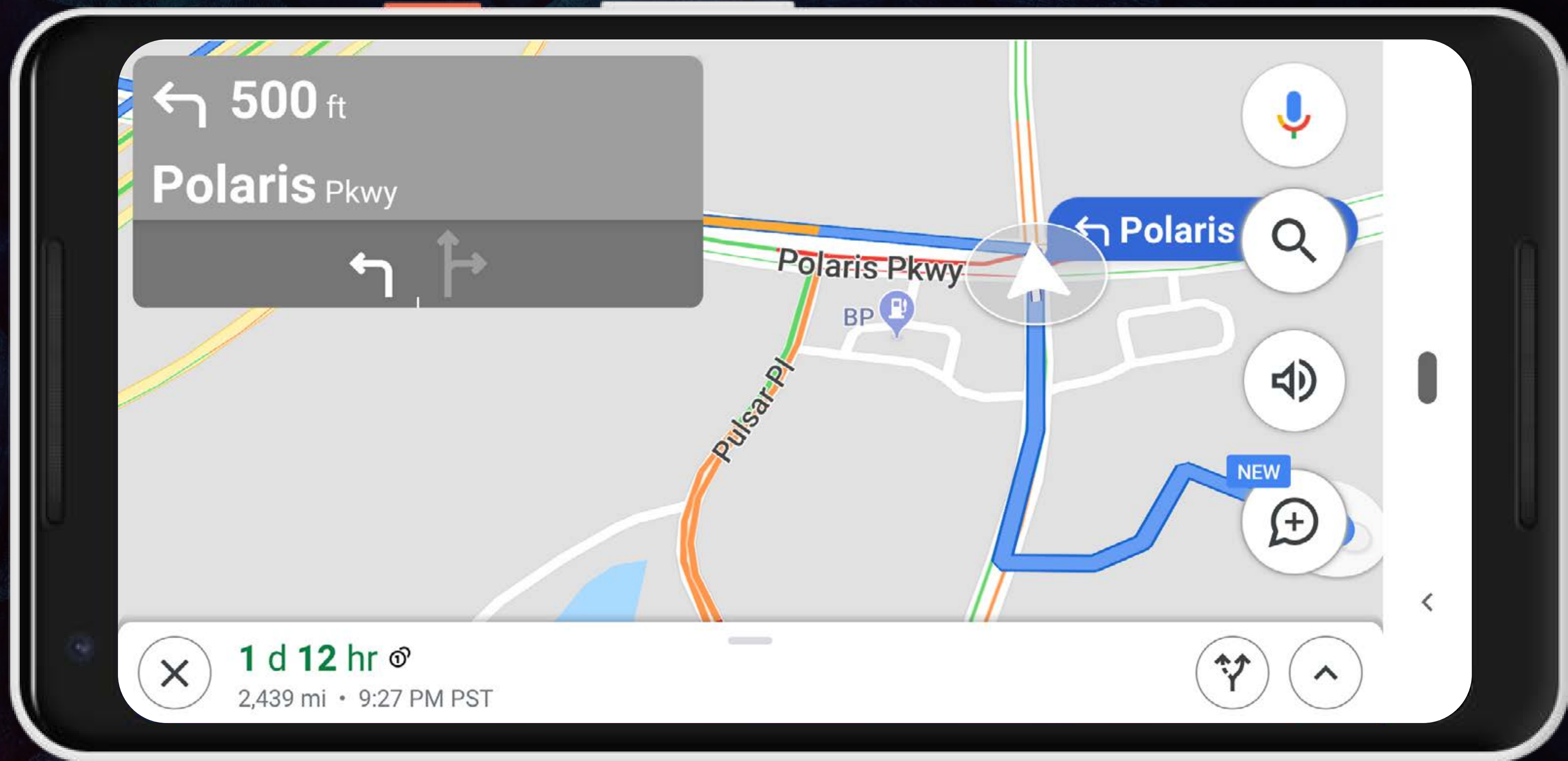
**Responding to New Realities**

*If you want to know  
God's will for your life,  
start by obeying Him.*

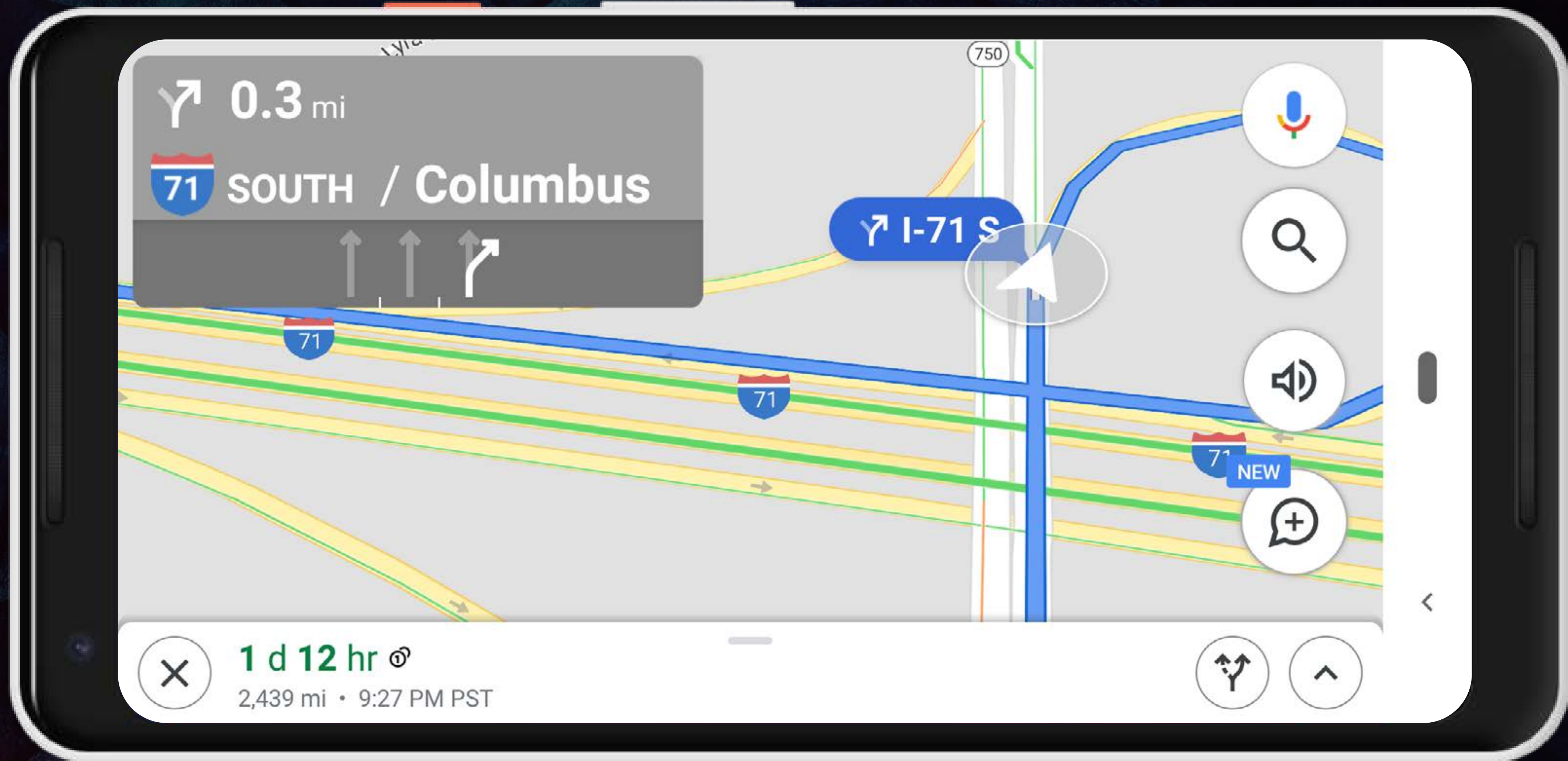
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**God invites us to  
make His plans  
the itinerary  
for our lives.**

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