

The Prediction of Jesus' Birth

Luke 1: 26-38

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

I. We need to remember that there is a difference between clarification and confirmation (V. 34)

- a. Mary wanted clarification as to what she was to do, in order to cooperate with the purposes of God, as the angel announced them to her. She wished to learn how her conception would be achieved, since she was a virgin. She was asking for clarification, not confirmation. There is a world of difference between her request and that of Zacharias. Hers stemmed from her faith; the question of Zacharias stemmed from his lack of faith – how is this going to happen, am I supposed to be doing something?
- b. Isaiah 6:1-13 – “Here am I, send me”
 - i. V. 11 – “How long Lord” – notice the difference between Isaiah and Jonah – neither had a ‘cushy’ assignment but like Mary, Isaiah believed God.
 - ii. Again, he simply wanted more details – there was no doubt. He knew God wanted Him to go so God would provide but he wanted to know the details.
- c. We have the Word of God – it tells us what to do so why do we argue, why do we question? Why don’t we learn to ask for confirmation and details?
 - i. We know that God tells us to serve – why don’t we ask Him how, or where – don’t ignore Him and get with it. It’s a given – go do it!

II. We need to remember that everything is possible with God (V. 37)

- a. Gabriel reminds Mary about her older relative, Elizabeth, who is pregnant at the time. It is a subtle reminder of all that God has done in the past.
 - i. Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, “...with God, all things are possible”.
 1. Crossing of the Red Sea
 2. David kills Goliath
 3. Daniel in the Lion’s Den
- b. What has God done in your life, the lives of friends, family, others? What else does He have to do to prove to you that HE really is working for your good.
- c. Matthew 7:11 “*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*”
- d. Do you believe that God really can work Miracles still?

III. We need to remember to submit completely to the will of God (V. 38)

- a. **Not my will, but your will be done** – Jesus spoke these words as He prayed that the Father would take the cup from Him.
 - i. **Do you want God’s will or are you afraid of HIS will?**
 - 1. **Do you trust God to truly want and know what is best for you? Your children?**
- b. **Romans 12** – submit ourselves as ‘living sacrifices’ – sacrificing my will, my desires, my wants, my needs, my likes, my comfort, ...
- c. **Luke 14:26, 27**, *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."*
 - i. **Mary knows her culture. She knows what having a child out of wedlock means. It could mean the end of her marriage to her Joseph. It could mean being cast out of her family and it could mean even her very life. Perhaps this is why she ponders whether to accept the offer to bear Christ. There are risks she knows about and then there are the risks she does not yet know; there is the night escape of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus as they flee to Egypt as refugees to escape King Herod's bloody attempt to kill baby Jesus. Then when it is safe to return they have to find a community that would be safe to raise Jesus and then there is the greatest suffering; Mary would have to face the death of her son as a criminal on the cross. And there is perhaps nothing more painful than losing a child. There was a cost to Mary in bearing the Christ child; Mary might be lowly but she is not stupid.**
- d. **Is God truly first in your life? Count the costs? Is it worth it?**
- e. **Will you make that commitment today?**