

Christmas According to Luke

Mary is Chosen

Luke 1:26-45

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 3, 2017

Luke 1:26-45 is about the first Christmas ever and it shows us how Mary responds to God's Word as one of the first Christians ever.

I. God is Always at Work Long Before We Ever Choose to Do Anything

Luke 1:26 "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary."

This is one of the most fundamental facts about Christmas and what it means to be a Christian! It all starts with God, not us.

God made a promise in **Genesis 3:15** that He would send One to solve our sin problem. He promised to do it through the seed of the first woman, Eve. Our enemy, Satan, has been working all through history to abort that seed and to keep Christ from being born!

The announcement from Gabriel was a war cry and one more victorious blow against Satan as God declared that the womb of a virgin girl would house the Son of God, who would become our Savior!

II. God Gives His Gift of Grace to Ordinary People Who Become a Part of His Extraordinary Plan

Mary's submission and obedience is commendable, but she's just an ordinary person that God used in His extraordinary plan of salvation!

Luke 1:28 "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

The word 'favored' in **v. 28** is a Greek word that means 'grace-bestowed.' It's God bestowing grace on someone freely of His own good pleasure and not on the basis of anything that they have earned.

III. God's Grace Can Be One of the Most Unsettling Things You've Ever Encountered

Grace flies in the face of our own self-sufficiency and desires to be in absolute control of our lives. Grace can at first sound terrifying. That's the effect this 'grace encounter' appears to have had on Mary.

In **v. 29-30** we can see Mary was troubled, wondered and was afraid.

"I would wager that you have discovered in your own life that grace does not always come with a welcome face. The highest and most precious gifts of God do not always come to us in attractive colors. Grace can perplex. Grace can frighten... O, how we need to learn from Mary not to lash out at God for the frightening forms of grace." John Piper, sermon 'Christ Conceived by the Holy Spirit,' March 11, 1984

IV. God's Grace is Centered Around God's Son

In **Luke 1:31-33** the Holy Spirit throws the floodlight on King Jesus.

A. Jesus is the Perfect Ruler of a Perfect Kingdom Our World Has Yet to See – But's It's Coming!

In **v. 33** Gabriel says "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

King Jesus is alive and reigning over the nations and His throne is an everlasting throne that far exceeds rulers today.

B. Jesus is the Promised Savior of Our Biggest Problem that Our World Could Never Solve – But He Did!

In **v. 31** Gabriel said, 'You shall call His name Jesus!' Then when an angel visited Joseph in **Matthew 1:21**, he says 'You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.'

At Christmas we celebrate how the Most High became the Most Low, by laying aside His glories and taking on flesh by stepping into our world to solve our sin problem that separates us from a Holy God.

Philippians 2:5-11 shows us what the Most High becoming the Most Low looks like.

V. God's Grace Becomes Your Grace by Faith in God's Word

In **v. 38** Mary is a wonderful example for us, just like other men and women of the Bible who trusted in God's Word and laid aside their own will and agenda.

She submitted to God's Word and gave up control of her own life despite the suffering and ridicule she knew she would face as a teenage, unwed mother.

In **v. 45** Elizabeth says she 'believed.' It's the Greek word 'pisteuo' that means to commit yourself and to place your confidence in something or someone, because you've accepted it as true so that there's a sense of reliance upon it rather than just intellectual assent.

Faith is wrestling with and examining all the evidence and then submitting your will to the evidence of Jesus and His message of the cross.