

Luke
See Jesus
The People God Uses
Luke 1:5-38

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Sept. 27, 2020

[Read Luke 1:5-38]

What should we know about how God works and who God chooses to use?

I. Your Place in This World Never Limits Your Part in God's Plan

Our God doesn't think or act like the rest our world when it comes to the qualifications for who He chooses to use most!

A. Zachariah was in the prime of his life and at the pinnacle of his vocational success

He had been chosen to go into the Holy Place and offer the evening sacrifice of incense. There were 20,000 priests serving at that time and only one would be chosen each day to go into the Holy Place. This was a great honor!

We have no problem understanding how God would use someone like Zachariah in His redemptive plan and send an angel to speak to him.

B. Mary was at the start of her life and was devoid of any outstanding achievements

In a real sense, Mary was a nobody from nowhere, but God chose to use her to bring into our world somebody who would change the course of history as well as our eternal destinies forever!

If you feel like a nobody from nowhere with a resume that would never catch anyone's attention, there is great news for you: you are the very kind of person God delights in using most.

I Corinthians 1:26-29 "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

Your status, position, power, accolades, and achievements often only get in the way of God using you more. Don't think that your "insignificant place" in this world has to limit your part in God's plan!

II. Your Troubled Questions Never Shut God Down or Cause Him to Give Up on Using You

A. Zachariah Was Focused on His Circumstances and Demanding Further Proof

Luke 1:18 "And Zachariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.'"

He was not seeking additional information or clarification. He was saying "God, I don't believe it. You're going to have to prove it."

We know he was guilty of unbelief from v. 20:

Luke 1:20 "...you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words..."

Notice that God didn't move on and choose to use someone else. Zachariah was not a chronic unbeliever and this did not characterize his life. He fell into it in a weak moment, just like all of us do from time to time.

B. Mary Was Surrendered to this New Calling and Simply Wondering How It Would Happen

Luke 1:34 "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Mary is accepting the fact that it's going to be. She's just catching her breath and wondering "how?"

III. God's Favor on You Doesn't Always Leave You Feeling More Comfortable and Calm

The favor of God can leave you unsettled and disturbed because it usually involves a step out of what you know and into the unknown—out of your comfortable routine and into the possibility of personal risk.

We need to learn from Mary not to lash out at God for the uncomfortable forms of grace that He brings into our lives.

"God's grace will come to us again and again in uncomfortable forms. This is where we tend to have an agenda conflict with our Lord...We get excited about having a safe, successful, stress-free, and predictable life. The problem with all of these things is not that they are wrong to desire. The problem is that we have settled for far too little...You see, God has planned more and better things for us than we would want for ourselves. He is not content for us to be content with situational and relational ease. He will settle for nothing less than that we would become partakers of his divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)."

~ *Lost in the Middle*, Paul David Tripp, p. 198-199

It's time to walk by faith again with the unsettling, uncomfortable grace of God filling you and enabling you to do more than you could have ever imagined.

Understand this: Every single human being has faith. You exercise it in many ways each day. It's just that you may be placing it in yourself or in something or someone else instead of Jesus.