

Refuge City Church — November 29, 2020
The Harmony of Christmas (Part 1: “Mary did you know?”)

Introduction

- The songs we sing this time of year get us excited; hopeful anticipation of Christmas.
- Christmas songs, smells, decorations, pumpkin spice, red & green all elicit a certain reaction in all of us.
- 4 week series: Utilizing 4 popular Christmas carols, we'll work our way through the telling of the birth of Jesus.
- **TODAY:** “Mary Did You Know”

Scripture Reading (Luke 1:26-38)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34** And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Verses 26-27

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

- Here we are introduced to a young couple who, out of obscurity, God chooses to raise His only Son.
 - Joseph = of the line of David [**prophecy fulfilled**]; Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.
 - **Isaiah 11:10**, “In that day the root of Jesse [**father of King David**], who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.”
 - Mary = young virgin [**teenager**]; already betrothed/promised to Joseph for marriage.
 - Nazareth = small town of no significance in its day.

- **John 1:45-46**, “Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” **[a beautiful invitation for all]**

Verses 28-30

28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

- “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”
 - Favored = to endue with grace.
 - Grace is unmerited favor.
 - What had she done to warrant such grace and favor?
 - She was chosen by God... As.Are.We!
 - **Ephesians 1:3-6**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

Verses 31-33

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

- Probably some of the greatest, most confusing, wonderful, scary, sweet, anxiety-driving, amazing news a young woman could receive!
 - She found favor in God’s eyes.
 - She’s been promised a child.
 - He will be a very important individual.
 - He will be God’s son.
 - He will be a king, reigning over a kingdom that will never end.
- Just who will this baby be?

“Mary did you know?”

- That your son would walk on water, give sight to the blind, calm storm, open the ears of the deaf, and provide miraculous healing for so many others!
 - Walk on water **[John 6:16-21]**
 - Give sight to the blind **[Matthew 9:27-31]**
 - Calm the storm with his hand **[Luke 8:22-25]**

- Deaf will hear **[Mark 7:32,37]**
- Dead will live again **[Luke 7:12-16]**
- Lame will leap **[Mark 2:3-4, 11-12]**
- Dumb/Mute will speak **[Matthew 9:32-33]**
- He will be a great performer of miracles!
 - **Isaiah 61:1**, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”
- This baby boy...
 - Walked where angels walked **[John 1:1-2]**
 - Kissed the face of God **[John 1:14]**
 - Lord of all creation
 - **John 1:3**, “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
 - **Colossians 1:16**, “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”
 - One day would rule the nations
 - **[Thief on the cross] Luke 23:42**, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
 - **Psalms 22:28**, “For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.”
 - Heaven’s perfect Lamb
 - **John 1:29**, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
 - **Revelation 22:3**, “No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.”
 - He is the Christ. The promised Messiah. The Son of God, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen!
- The Great I Am!
 - Who makes us new. Who was born to deliver you.
 - **John 8:58**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
 - **I Am** the bread of life. **[John 6:48]**
 - **I Am** the light of the world. **[John 8:12]**
 - **I Am** from above. **I Am** not of this world. **[John 8:23]**
 - **I Am** the door of the sheep **[John 10:9]**
 - **I Am** the good shepherd. **[John 10:11]**
 - **I Am** the way, the truth, the life. **[John 14:6]**

Verses 34-38

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative

Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

- In all of this uncertainty, Mary asked a very important question... “How can this be?”
 - We are allowed to ask God questions. The beauty of this conversation with Gabriel is that it reveals how God responds.
 - An answer is given, and proof is offered [**Mark 2; healing the paralytic**]
- “I am the servant of the Lord.”
 - Doulos = Bondservant; slave
 - Does a servant get to tell their master how things should be?
 - Does a servant determine what they should be able to do or not do?
 - A true servant will accept their ‘assignment’ regardless of the circumstances and regardless of how they may be perceived by others.
- “Let it be to me according to your word.”
 - **Genesis 12:1,4**, “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you... So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...”
 - **Isaiah 6:8**, “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”
 - **Matthew 26/Mark 14/Luke 22**, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”
- **Matthew 1:18-25**
 - Joseph wanted out. He desired to do what the law permitted him to do...Divorce his wife.
 - But God spoke to him what he needed to do.
 - Amidst shame from the public, release of his own pride, and be obedient to God’s Word, even though the result of this plan wasn’t directly about him.

Response/Conclusion

- In our humanity and limited understanding, God still wants to use for HIS ultimate purpose, regardless of the immediate effect on our current situation.
- We are called to see the larger, glorious purpose for who Jesus is and why He came in to this world.
- In the same way we view Jesus in the manger, we should view Him on the cross, and even now as He sits on His heavenly throne... Hopeful, joyous anticipation of His return.
- At the outset, Mary and Joseph may have questioned and wondered just who their baby boy was gonna be.
- We’ve been given the amazing opportunity to see, hear, and know!
- The question remains, “What will you do with the information you have?”