

"Just Christmas"
Making an Impact
Luke 1:26-38
December 11 & 12, 2010

1. God uses the ordinary.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Luke chapter 1, verses 26-27 (778)

- ✓ Mary was a teenager and a self-proclaimed "servant girl"
- ✓ Joseph came from a dysfunctional family... but God was using them.
- ✓ Regardless of your background or abilities God can use you.
- ✓ Simple acts of obedience done by ordinary people are powerful in God's hands.

2. God uses the blessed.

Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!" Luke chapter 1, verses 28-30 (778)

- ✓ "favored woman"- "blessed among women" by God
- ✓ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.
Ephesians chapter 1, verse 6 (789)
- ✓ God poured his grace into my life so I have a responsibility to demonstrate that grace to others.
- ✓ "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return;" Luke chapter 12, verse 48 (795)

3. God uses the outrageously hopeful.

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Luke chapter 1, verses 31-33 (778)

- ❖ Mary believed the promises that God had made.
- ❖ God always fulfills his promises! Do you believe that?
- ❖ God is working out His plan from long ago and inviting Mary to join him.

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.

Luke chapter 1, verses 31-33 (778)

- What is that thing in your life you have believed cannot be overcome?
- If you're not hopeful about God changing your life you won't be hopeful about God changing others.
- Holy Spirit power makes the impossible... possible.

4. God uses the humble

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. Luke chapter 1, verses 26-28

- Humility says “I am willing”
- Pride is the barrier to doing anything for God.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God, as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Philippians chapter 2, verses 5-8 (900)

Next Week... *Our Mess... His Gift*