

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Meaning: Mary's perplexity and anxiety are answered by the Lord

Big Idea: God answers our perplexity and anxiety with His presence

Objective: Trust the Lord in our perplexity and anxiety

Theme:

MOTTO – *STRESSED SPELLED BACKWARDS IS DESSERTS. SO IF YOU WANT TO TURN YOUR STRESS AROUND JUST GRAB SOME MORE DESSERT. THAT'S MY MOTTO AT CHRISTMAS TIME!*

Merle Haggard – IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH DECEMBER

CHORUS

If we make it through December
Everything's gonna be alright, I know
It's the coldest time of winter
And I shiver when I see the falling snow

If we make it through December
Got plans to be in a warmer town come summer time
Maybe even California
If we make it through December, we'll be fine

VERSE

Got laid off down at the factory
And there time is not the greatest in the world
Heaven knows I've been workin' hard
I wanted Christmas to be right for daddy's girl
I don't mean to hate December
It's meant to be the happy time of year
And my little girl don't understand
Why daddy can't afford no Christmas gift

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD.

- Are my kids going to be safe?

- Is war ever going to end?

- Are we going to be able to buy gifts this Christmas?

- Can we afford our rent? Put food on our table?

- Who am I? What am I? Where am I going in life?

- Who is going to be our next president?

- Can we recover as a nation from all the sin and brokenness we've embraced?

- Is there any hope in this dark world?

CHRISTMAS IS THE ANSWER! Nothing is impossible with God!

Jesus is the answer for your marriage! Jesus is the answer for your health! Jesus is the answer for your loneliness! Jesus is the answer for your provision! Jesus is the answer for your

READ LUKE 1:26-38

POWERFUL CHRISTOLOGY

Virgin Birth – Mary clearly testifies here that she had not known a man intimately. Jesus was born miraculously.

Impeccability (sinlessness) – The angel says he will be unequivocally great and that from conception he would be holy. Scripture tells us that Christ **KNEW NO SIN, HAD NO SIN, AND HE COMMITTED NO SIN.**

Deity – He will be the Son of the Most High, the Son of God, and He will sit on the throne of His Father David – all speak to His place in the triune Godhead and his role as the chosen Messiah

JESUS IS THE VIRGIN BORN, SINLESS, SON OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

The more I read the Christmas accounts – THE MORE QUESTIONS I HAVE.

GOD'S CHOICE OF CHARACTERS – Unknown couple from an unimportant town. Unwed teenage mother who would be shunned by her community and cast aside as an abject failure. Why would Jesus come this way? IT'S A PICTURE OF WHO JESUS IS FOR! HE'S FOR THE OUTCAST, THE CAPTIVE, AND THE BROKENHEARTED!

GOD'S CHOICE IN COMING – The Son of God came as a CHILD. That is mind-blowing when you stop long enough to really consider it. The most vulnerable among us. The most impressionable. The most trusting. WHY A BABY? JESUS WANTED TO FEEL WHAT WE FEEL, EXPERIENCE WHAT WE EXPERIENCE, AND HE HAD TO TAKE ON A BODY TO BE A SACRIFICE.

Jesus said the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a child. We have concerns about our children understanding the gospel, but Jesus had more concerns with adults getting it than kids.

GOD, AT TIMES, WILL USE THE MOST SURPRISING AND MOST UNEXPECTED MEANS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO US!
One of the greatest sins the Child of God can commit is to dictate to themselves and to others exactly where, when, and how God reveals Himself.

We need EXPOSITION and EXPERIENCE! We need THE SCRIPTURES and the SPIRIT!

CHRISTMAS MEANS – GOD WANTS YOU TO EXPERIENCE HIM!

WHATEVER THE QUESTIONS ARE TODAY, AND WHATEVER THE NEEDS ARE, JESUS IS THE ANSWER!

First of all we see in this passage....

1. JESUS IS THE ANSWER FOR INSECURITY – V. 29

Scripture says Mary was greatly troubled. There are a lot of troubling things in this life. But Christmas means we don't have to be afraid. We don't have to fear.

YOU CAN BE HIGHLY FAVORED AND GREATLY TROUBLED AT THE SAME TIME! MARY WAS!

This is the only time the word translated "Greatly Troubled" is used in the entire New Testament. This was a one of a kind word for a one of a kind fear. Mary was on the brink of a complete panic attack here. She's most likely not more than 15 years old and in walks an angel, a supernatural encounter. She's thinking more horror movie than holy move of God!

After listening to the words of Gabriel, Mary turns fear into faith. ***FAITH IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR. FAITH IS TRUSTING GOD IN THE FACE OF OUR FEARS. FAITH IS LOOKING FEAR IN THE FACE AND DECLARING – "YOU DON'T HAVE THE FINAL SAY OVER ME!"***

CHRISTMAS – THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR LIFE – IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR FEARS, DOUBTS, AND WORRIES!

We all have doubts, worries, and insecurities. Faith is coming face to face with all those and choosing to obey God's Word and believe God's promises.

Secondly, we see....

2. JESUS IS THE ANSWER FOR INADEQUACY (v. 34)

Mary's question: HOW?

How is God going to pay my rent? Put food on my table?
How is God going to reconcile this broken relationship?
Terminal Illness – How is God going to redeem that?
Loved one gone – How am I supposed to go on?

Messed up bad – How can God redeem this mess I've made?
How is Jesus going to help me overcome this hurt and pain in my life?

How can Jesus redeem this mess of a situation I'm in?

Greatest Need – A SAVIOR

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need is forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

God's Presence

The grace of God bestowed upon you, and the power of God given to you through the Holy Spirit is God's answer!

Holy Spirit – our comforter, our teacher, our helper, our guide. Fully God – Co-equal and Co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

The Lord said – no seed of a man is needed – the Holy Spirit will provide the seed.

THE SEED YOU NEED TODAY IS NOT PHYSICAL – IT'S SPIRITUAL!

There are many needs we have in life that the physical things of this world cannot meet. More money, a better job, another vacation, a new hobby, new relationship, a new car,

God's Plan

Before Mary was ever born God had picked her out. He already had a plan for how Christ would be born into the world – and He even provided someone to walk through it with her – ELIZABETH.

Nobody would believe that Mary was pregnant of the Holy Spirit. Nobody would support her in this claim. She was now an outcast, on

her own, so the Lord stepped in and brought her Elizabeth. God made ACCOMODATION FOR HER SUFFERING.

THERE IS A SUPPLY OF GRACE, AND A PLAN ALERADY IN PLACE, FOR EVERY STRUGGLE WE FACE

God knows BEFORE it ever happens, and He knows our every need before we even ask.

Lastly, we see....

3. JESUS IS THE ANSWER FOR IMPOSSIBILITY (v. 37)

The Angel Gabriel gives Mary the most encouraging and inspiring news of all when he says, "FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD."

Mary – beautiful picture of SALVATION.

We cannot live the Christian life on our own. We cannot save ourselves. WE are completely powerless to glorify God – but through the Holy Spirit we are born again by faith in Christ and He births the characteristics of the Son of God in us.

MARY'S RESPONSE:

I AM A SERVANT

LET IT BE

Whatever you want for my life Lord, LET IT BE

Gave up her wedding celebration

Shunned by her small town

Considered impure and unclean by her peers

Looked down upon by the older women

Nobody would believe her

Nobody would support her