

Faith is CHOOSING to Believe ~ Luke 1:26-38

→ Scripture Reading Matt. 2:6, Luke 2:1, 3-5

Mary BELIEVES the Unbelievable ~ Luke 1:26-39

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found FAVOR with God. ³¹ You will BE WITH CHILD and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob Forever; His kingdom will never end."

Mary's Son would... BKC

- be GREAT
- be called the SON of the Most High
- be given His father David's THRONE (2 Sam. 7:16)
- reign over Israel FOREVER (Isaiah 9:7)
- have a Kingdom that NEVER Ended (2 Sam. 7:19)

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

IMPLICATIONS

³⁸ I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said. Then the angel left her.

³⁸ I belong to the Lord, body and soul - let it happen as you have... (JBP)

MARY was...

- the only person with Jesus at His BIRTH and DEATH
- a young woman who made herself AVAILABLE to God
- knew and APPLIED O.T. Scriptures
- an ordinary young woman who became EXTRAORDINARY

IMPLICATION

1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were BOUGHT at a PRICE. Therefore HONOR God with your body.

1 Cor. 10:31 (JBP) ...whatever you do, eating or drinking or anything else, EVERYTHING should be done to BRING GLORY to God.

Joseph Believed and OBEYED ~ Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name JESUS, because He will save His people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him IMMANUEL"--which means, "God with us.

The name Jesus specifies WHAT He DOES - God SAVES, while the Messianic title Immanuel specifies WHO He IS God WITH US. ESVN

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

IMPLICATIONS

Joseph was a man of OBEDIENCE...

- took Mary as his wife RIGHT AWAY
- NAMED the baby Jesus
- OBEYED the Old Testament Law

→ FAITH and OBEDIENCE must go hand in hand

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NIV) Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I WILL REJOICE in the LORD, I will be JOYFUL in God my Savior. ¹⁹ **The Sovereign LORD is my strength...**

I WILL Continue to...

- REJOICE in the Lord
- Remember God is SOVEREIGN
- TRUST the Lord for Strength

Simeon and Anna in FAITH Waiting ~ Luke 2:25-32, 36-38

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. ³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

IMPLICATIONS

²⁵ ...He was waiting for the CONSOLATION of Israel...

³⁸ she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the REDEMPTION of Jerusalem.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to ALL who have LONGED for his appearing.

Those Who LONG for His Coming...

- are Focused on what God WANTS
- eagerly PURSUE a deeper walk with Jesus
- keep SHORT Accounts
- Spend Time other who long for His COMING
- Share the gospel so that Others can KNOW Jesus

Jesus did not come to make bad people good - God sent Jesus so that those who were DEAD could be made ALIVE. R. Zacharias

TAKE AWAY ??