

THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Sunday, November 21

“the bondsman of the Lord;”

notes

¹⁷And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

notes

John was consecrated from conception to prepare the way for Jesus.

Malachi 3:1 NASB

¹"Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me. And the Lord, whom you are seeking, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of armies.

John is coming in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Malachi 4:5-6 NASB

⁵"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers,

Change starts in the home.

SO WHAT!?

In disappointment we can choose our response.

Our response shows what we worship.

In desolation we can choose to have faith.

Petition: formal request. Philippians 4:6-7

In discouragement we can submit our will to God's plan.

If dependence is the goal, then weakness is an advantage.

God can use our disappointment, desolation, and discouragement for his Glory.

Prayer Requests:

Read out loud: Luke 1:26-38

Group Discussion: Mary was willing to be the bonds slave of the Lord. How can we follow Mary's example?

1) Accept who we are in God's eyes

"Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God..."

Mary understood that she was favored by God. She had received God's grace. How do you see yourself? Is it through your own eyes, the eyes of your friends, culture, or God? How can we see ourselves through God's eyes?

2) Accept God's word

"He will be great..."

Mary knew God's word & accepted it. How well do you know Scripture? Why is it important to know God's word? Are you intentional about your study of God's word?

3) Accept God's role

"the bonds slave of the Lord;"

Who are you following? Think about the names of God and how God is described in Scripture. Is there anyone that compares to God? What is keeping you from saying yes to God?