

Vomen’s – Young Adult – Students - Advent – (Calendars chocolate) Frist Coming

Christmas Story – Simpler than we think...more incredible than we can imagine

imple – A child was born | Incredible – God became man

You ever had a positive ‘Why Me?’ moment? | Lead the project? Promoted? Job? | Ministry

No one less likely to be at the center of the most profound story of all time than Mary

‘City of Nazareth’ – Stretch Jemez Springs Village (100 mi) | Poor – Young – Jewish - Ordinary

God uses the simple, lowly and unpretentious to accomplish His incredible work and will

Bl – Simple yet incredible Truth – Christmas is a story of humility

²⁶ In the sixth month (E) the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant^{el} of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

ONE POINT - Mary was a woman of purity who received God’s promise and submitted to God’s plan

.. Mary was a woman of purity

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Sexual Purity - Mary here is known for her chastity...virgin – Betrothal time before marriage

Moral purity – TESTIMONY (v.46-55) – Knows the Lord and is already walking with Him

Clear| Wear good shoes today? Preach like I dance...stepping on toes | Protestant – 2nd Rode Island

Mr. Rogers Tattoos – Paul McCartney died 1966 & replaced – Elvis / TuPac / Andy Kaufman / S. Jobs

) Mary was not sinless – (46) ‘God my Savior’ | R 3:23 | 1 Jn 1:8 ‘We have no sin, deceive, truth not’

) Mary was not immaculately conceived – No point...Jesus Immaculately (Free from sin) Conceived

) Mary did not remain a virgin – ‘Until’ | Acts 1:12 – ‘Mary, the mother of Jesus...brothers’

) Mary is not a co-redemptrix or mediatrix – 1 Tim. 2:5 – ‘One God and one mediator between...’

) Mary is not to be venerated or worshiped – Peter / Cornelius | Paul / Lystra | John / Angel | **ALONE**

) Mary was a remarkable woman - Catholics make too much of Mary...Protestants too little

Chosen by God to be His Son’s mother – ‘O favored one’ – ‘Most blessed among women’ – John

First to hear the announcement – Exemplified purity, simple faith & willingness say ‘yes’ to God

pplication = doctrine matters – Mary’s humility would not want you to worship her...worship her Son

.. Mary received God’s promise | Books on religious shelves filled with angelic accounts...very few

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Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God."

‘Why me’ moment – ‘She was greatly troubled’ – Perplexed...shows her humility

Lays out promise of God – Conceive a Son – Jesus – Son of the Most High – Eternal throne David

Amazing = Gone was their mighty nation - God’s people stuck – Weary and downtrodden

Divided Nation - 400 years (Maccabean) – Alexander the Great – Rome – Corrupted governor

- o The time has come – God is coming...promise fulfilled...reign over house of Jacob...no end!
- o Not just for Israel...Jesus, your son, will right the wrong going all the way back to Eden!

(34) ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin’ – Great comfort to us all

- The mother of Jesus wondered how God would...ever been there?
- (35) ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you’
- Spirit hovered over the waters of creation – Involved in bringing Christ to earth
- ‘Overshadow’ – transfiguration to describe the glory cloud that descended
 - o Holy Spirit would come and encompass Mary with glory to create a child in her womb
- Holy Child – Unlike any other infant ever born...sinless / pure / perfect
- Son of God – God Himself manifested in human flesh

Gabriel’s answer to Mary’s question is simple and incredible...her question...isn’t possible

(37) For nothing will be impossible with God

- If nothing is too hard for God’s omnipotence, then everything is possible with Him
- God, whose power knows no limits – Not bound by the Laws of Nature He created

God can accomplish anything consistent with His holy nature and purposes

Do you need to hear the mother of Jesus wonder how God would...Nothing is impossible with God

3. Mary submitted to God’s plan

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.

Joseph last week – ‘He did as the angel of the Lord commanded him’ – Mary said (Insert Joke here)

Most beautifully, humble response to the most unbelievable ask ever...yes!

Mary Consoles Eve

- Mary Did You Know - John 19:26-27 | Acts 1:12
 - o Mary didn’t know it all...but she willingly and righteously submitted to God’s plan
- We don’t know it all...and often wonder how God will...
 - o Even when you don’t know how God will...will you follow His will?
 - o Simply Incredible: Christmas is a story of humility...Jesus’ Humility

Is God humble? No and Yes | Humble – Humble yourself before God

- Our humility – happy not to be God, but to trust God, depend upon God, treasure God
- It was required of Adam; he failed. It’s required of us, and we have failed.
- God loves such humility. It is in his nature to consider human humility – a beautiful thing.
 - o It’s in his nature to delight in it.
- Transcendence – Beyond perception – God is & therefore has nothing to humble Himself before
- Incarnation - God does the unthinkable: he takes on human nature.
- The Son of God becomes the God-man - be perfectly humble in his human nature.
 - o Christ perfectly trusted his Father, perfectly depended on his Father.
 - o And in his dependence, he did what only a perfect human in union with God could do:

“Being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8)

Mary was a woman of purity who received God’s promise and submitted to God’s plan

‘Why me’ moment – Mary had one...have you?

The most incredible ‘Why Me’ moment is salvation

- God makes good on his promises – God loves you