

Luke 1:26-56 “He Will Come”

As I was thinking about what to look at this year for the Christmas message I really felt led to just keep things simple. To just read and talk about some of the events that surrounded the life of Jesus and to remember some of the circumstances of His coming to us.

We might remember before we begin that just the simple fact that Jesus came is an undeserved blessing for you and I. It's amazing to think that the Savior submitted Himself to coming into this world to save sinners.

I do feel a need to just simply say before we begin that if you are here in this building or watching online that Jesus loves you, that He gave His life for you paying the price for your sins on the cross, that He desires that you would choose to repent from your sins and turn and place your faith in Him.

When you come to that place in your life that you do choose to accept Jesus I can tell you firsthand and many in this room can tell you that Jesus will accept you, He will forgive you, He will change you and He will give you two gifts...The gift of the Holy Spirit which is a deposit that guarantees that which will one day come...and the gift of eternal life and what that means is that instead of going to hell for all of eternity because you have unforgiven sin in your life, that you instead are seen by the Father as pure and spotless because of the blood of Jesus that has been applied to your life by faith.

Let's take a look here in the Gospel of Luke 1 as we remember the coming of our Savior this evening.

Verses 26-28 which say the following ²⁶**Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,** ²⁷**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.** ²⁸**And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"**

Here we can see that the mighty angel Gabriel who was the same angel that brought news to Zecharias and Elizabeth that they would have a son who was John the Baptist, shows up in the city of Nazareth and goes specifically to a virgin whose name was Mary.

We are told here that she was betrothed to Joseph and just to briefly explain what betrothal was, it was essentially an engagement like you and I have today but maybe a little more formal. To enter into betrothal meant you were committed to the other person, that the required doweries had been paid and if this took place as two people were adults the duration was typically about 1 year.

During this time the wife was to prepare herself for marriage and the husband would be working on building a place for them to live...The two would not enter into sexual relations but being betrothed was so serious that you needed a divorce in order to break it.

The angel as He arrives on the scene comes into the home of Mary and notice He has some incredible words for her as he says that she is a highly favored one, that God is with her and she is blessed...I want to take just a minute here and just say that Mary was indeed a godly and great woman...I think today in the world because of how a particular religion will lift Mary up that the church can be afraid to just simply say that Mary was someone to be respected and admired.

She of all women and of all times in history was the one chosen of God to bring the Lord Jesus into the world...We might notice here in the text that it says of her that she is “Blessed among women”...not that she is blessed above women, or greater than women but that she is right there with everyone else.

Look at verse 29 which says ²⁹**But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.** So the angel says she is highly favored and blessed and what does it say of Mary? That she was troubled almost shocked I would say. I don't think Mary thought of herself as better than anyone else...it wasn't like she said “well of course I'm awesome and great and of course I am blessed among women.” Instead there was a humility that came from her life.

I wonder what it would be like to see an angel? Have you ever thought about that? Have you ever wondered what an interaction with one might be like? I'm reminded that the scriptures say this of angels in Hebrews 13:2 which says ²**Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.** I think if an angel showed up in the heavens you and I just like everyone else in the Bible when they met an angel would be fully overwhelmed.

Look at verses 30-33 which say ³⁰**Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”**

The angel then proceeds to give this woman some incredible promises. It says here that she had found favor with God. If you remember Mary was troubled previously, we will see later that she knew she was in need of a Savior so she was not perfect and yet here we are told she was favored.

You know I believe this just shines light on the grace of God. Mary hadn't accomplished any great feats in her life, she wasn't sinless and yet God had shown favor on her. Do you know today that you and I do not deserve the multitude of blessings that are found in knowing Jesus? Not one of us deserves any good thing from the Lord and yet because of Jesus we are blessed beyond measure.

The angel also tells her that she would conceive in her womb and a Son would be born whose name would be Jesus...That name means the Lord saves or the Lord is salvation.

Notice it says here of Jesus that He would be great and I have to say that Jesus is by far the greatest person that has ever lived. No one has influenced humanity more than Jesus in this world.

We are also told that this Son will be the Son of the highest. Multiple people in the New Testament called Jesus the Son of God. In Matthew 16:16 Peter said of Jesus He was the Son of God and over in Matthew 26:63-64 the Word says the following ⁶³ **But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"**

⁶⁴ **Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."**

Even the Father said of Jesus that He was His Son when Jesus was on the mount of transfiguration in Matthew 17:5 when He said “This is my Son, listen to Him.”

And then we are told of this coming Son whose name would be Jesus that He would sit on the throne of his father David and He would reign over the house of David forever and this is really speaking of the simple fact that while Jesus was the Son of God that He was also the son of David...Jesus was both fully God and fully man as He came into this world.

When it speaks of sitting on the throne of David forever we should remember that there were promises made to David back in the old testament in 2 Samuel 7:12-14 that he would one day have a descendant that would come from his family who would sit on the throne forever...Gabriel the angel is telling Mary that through her the Messiah is going to come into the world.

Look at verse 34 which says³⁴ **Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”** Well, I think Mary is asking perhaps the most logical question in all of humanity isn't she? Mary is saying this simply does not make sense and how will it come to pass.

Look at verse 35 which says³⁵ **And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.** I am reminded that God can certainly do the supernatural can't He? This is certainly one of the mysteries of the Bible as this took place...The Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of God would overshadow her...and you know

I'm not sure how this took place as God took His Son and placed Him within her womb.

There is an interesting scripture over in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 which says **45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.**

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.

If you remember the first Adam was created from the dust and then given life...The second Adam who is Jesus came from heaven and was placed in the womb of His mother Mary.

Verse 36 says the following³⁶ **Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.** The angel then speaks to Mary and lets her know that her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant...and I have to say that Mary probably had a look of pure amazement on her face when the angel said this.

The reason...Elizabeth we are told in Luke 1:7 was barren and her and her husband were both old and advanced in years...In other words medically speaking these two should not be able to have a child...and I believe the angel is using this to let Mary know that supernatural things were taking place not just in her own life but in the life of another as well.

And then to put the icing on the cake as the angel ministers to Mary we have verse 37 which says ³⁷**For with God nothing will be impossible.** We should be reminded this evening that when it comes

to creating life, when it comes to developing a child in the womb, when it comes to everything we see with our eyes that God can do whatever He wants.

The One true God made the heavens and the earth, He made the seas and the mountains, He made the animals and the plants and with Him there is not one thing that can't be accomplished.

I don't want to go off on a tangent here, but I want you to just know tonight that wherever you are in life, no matter how big the circumstances or situations that you face that God is fully capable of delivering beyond our expectations.

And so Mary would have been I believe greatly encouraged by these words of the angel as the angel let's her know that someone else is pregnant that has no business being pregnant and that God can do it all.

And then look at the response of Mary to all this incredible news in verse 38 which says this ³⁸ **Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** And the angel departed from her.

You know I believe this just displays the godliness of Mary as she is seen here submitting to the plans of God for her life...She didn't understand how it would happen or why she was chosen but here she surrenders to the will of God. Have you ever had God working in you in a way that wasn't expected? To come to the place that you realize that God is doing something in you that simply doesn't make sense?

It can be a tough thing to work through. I can remember going through the process of being called to the missions field and then later being

called to come to a city called Olathe, KS and it was hard sometimes. There will be times in life that you will have to count the cost and you will have to come to the place that you trust the Lord and submit to what He would have for you.

And for Mary in this case we can see that she had an incredibly Godly response.

I want us to understand some things here about this woman's life. To submit to God's will for her was going to mean a life of rejection and misunderstanding for here she is betrothed to Joseph and then as time goes on and we all know how this is but when the baby is growing you start showing and what do you think the community is going to say about Mary?

They are going to ridicule her, they are going to call her an adulteress, they may even stone her for that was penalty for those that had done such things.

Now you and I we both know that God is going to work this out for her favor in the end but this was no easy road and God would have to show up all over the place to do the work in many peoples lives to bring these things to pass...and yet I am reminded that with God all things are certainly possible.

Well let's see what happened next as we continue on here in verses 39-40 which say ³⁹ **Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.** We might ask why Mary would arise and leave with haste...probably for the numerous reasons I just mentioned a minute ago and so she takes off and she ends up at the

house of Zacharias and Elizabeth and perhaps for Mary she just needed to see with her own eyes and know that the things the angel had said to her were indeed true.

I wonder how strong the relationship was between Mary and these relatives that were hers...I wonder if she knew that this was a safe place she would go where people would understand what had happened in her life, that God had done a miracle in her womb...surely Zacharias and Elizabeth would understand since they had been through something similar.

Look with me at verses 41-42 which say the following ⁴¹ **And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** So Mary comes in and she simply says “hey there how we doing everyone” and the little baby inside of Elizabeth was leaping with joy...I’m not sure how that worked but boy I have to tell you if ever there was a baby to be joyous about and excited about and go crazy about it was the child that was in Mary’s womb the Lord Jesus.

Notice also here that Elizabeth was then filled with the Holy Spirit and the idea here is really that she was empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so something and we’ll see that here in the next verses

Look with me at verses 43-45 which says this ⁴³ **But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she**

who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

It is as if this woman Elizabeth as she is filled with the Spirit then prophesies over Mary and you might notice that she acknowledges that Mary will be the mother of who? It says of my Lord...Isn't that interesting, this is the first time Jesus is referred to as the Lord by a human after His conception.

Elizabeth then speaks a blessing over Mary saying she would find it to be so for her choice to believe and that the Lord would fulfill all that He had said to her.

I want you to put yourself in the shoes of Mary at this point...We don't know this for sure I want to make that clear but I have a hunch that she felt very alone at this moment in her life. And then to show up at a relatives house and they begin to prophesy over you and just reaffirm what God has already said had to have been a great comfort indeed.

This just highlights for me the need that you and I have to be obedient to what the scriptures say over in Hebrews 10:24-25 which says ²⁴**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,** ²⁵**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

I know this isn't a Christmas themed thing to say but listen if you are here today you need to know that you need a church home, a place to go and fellowship with other believers, a place that you can go and be encouraged and exhorted to continue on in the faith...If you aren't with

others that love Jesus you'll find yourself without the encouragement of those that have the same heart and mind about life.

For Mary I believe this was music to her ears as the Lord is now confirming not only through the angel but also through a relative the message that God had for her.

And then Mary responds in verses 46-56 and this is titled The Song of Mary in my Bible but some called it "The Magnificat" and I have to say that this that we have before us really displays the depth of Mary's knowledge of who God is...I can imagine her family teaching her the ways of God as she grew up...Remember she was not a middle aged woman, many believe she was actually a teenager at this point in her life.

So let's briefly look at this for we are running out of time here tonight but look at verses 46-47 which say ⁴⁶**And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,** ⁴⁷**And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.** First Mary just really worships God as she states that her soul (the deepest part of her heart) magnifies the Lord.

And then notice what it says next as Mary the mother of Jesus says she has rejoiced in who? It says here in God my Savior...that's interesting isn't it? Mary knew she needed a Savior, she may have had a special role in bringing the Savior into the world but she was a sinner none the less. I want to be clear here that Mary should be honored, she should be respected, she should be looked at as an example but be very careful you don't take it too far.

Mary if you just read the scriptures really falls into the background of the story of Jesus and the early church. She is never really mentioned

as a leader in the church or someone that was used significantly in the early church. I'm sure God used her and ministered through her but she was just like everyone else and she knew it.

Verses 48-51 say⁴⁸ **For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;**

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,

And holy is His name.

⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him

From generation to generation.

Again, we can see here the lowly state of Mary meaning she probably didn't come from some grand and powerful family but instead from humble beginnings...and she knew that because of what she would partake of in bringing the Messiah into the world that she would be called blessed.

We also see Mary acknowledge that the Lord is holy and that just means to be set apart and in this case it means to be set apart for that which is holy and perfect. She also knew that God had done great things for her and that the mercy of God would be upon all who feared Him from one generation to the next.

Look at verses 51-53 which say this⁵¹ **He has shown strength with His arm;**

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones,

And exalted the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich He has sent away empty.

It's interesting these verses are in here for they really highlight the simple fact that God is against those who are proud and gives grace to those who are humble...I think Jesus has that effect on people doesn't He?

You know so many people in the world never come to accept Jesus because they are proud, because they can't see that they are sinners, because they think they are rich and have no need of help.

I like to quote these scriptures a lot found over in the book of Revelation 3:17 says ¹⁷ **Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—** You know that's how the proud of this world are...they think everything is fine not realizing that in truth they desperately need a work of Jesus in their lives.

Perhaps you are here today and you sit here in your seat and you have the idea that everything is fine in life and you have never really accepted Christ or come to Him and given your life to Him...Perhaps you think you need no Savior...It may just be that today Jesus would say to you that you need Him, that without Him you have nothing...You can have all the things of this world and all the power and prestige but if you don't have Jesus then you in truth have nothing.

Verses 54-55 say ⁵⁴ **He has helped His servant Israel,**
In remembrance of His mercy,
⁵⁵ **As He spoke to our fathers,**
To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Very briefly here just notice that we have Israel here and Abraham is mentioned as well and we should just remember that God has a very

special place in His heart for the people of Israel...To Israel were given the commands, the covenants, the promises and the Messiah...Indeed Israel is blessed.

And then in verse 56 we have this in closing which says ⁵⁶**And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.**

Up in verse 36 when the angel Gabriel was speaking to Mary he let her know that her relative Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant...At this point John the Baptist has been born and it is time for Mary to move along.

Well it's Christmas time, the kids are probably getting squirrely here as it's the big day tomorrow but I want to just remind you that the greatest gift, the one that really matters is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ...We celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts but He truly is the reason for the season.

If you are here today and you know in your heart you aren't right with Jesus, if you know you need to repent of your sins and place your trust in Him when we close in worship I want to just encourage you to come up here and stand with me and I'll pray with you and you can make that choice to put your faith in Jesus Christ.

Let's stand we'll worship the Lord as we conclude today.

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Cross references

Verse 29

Hebrews 13:2

Verses 30-33

Matthew 26:63-64

Verse 35

1 Corinthians 15:45-47

Verses 43-45

Hebrews 10:24-25

Verses 51-53

Revelation 3:17