# HOW GOD CHOOSES WHO HE USES

Story: Part Two

March 8, 2015 Pastor Brian

Luke 1:26-55

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David." (Luke 1:26–27, NLT)

Mary's initial reaction:

"Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to wonderfully bless you!" (Luke 1:29–30, The Living Bible)

> Possible fears: Fear of criticism - "What will everyone think?" Fear of the supernatural - "What will happen to me?" Fear of inadequacy - "How can I handle this?" Fear of change - "How will this change my life?"

> > TRUTH:

God's choice for who He changes is not random, it's **RESPONSIVE**.

1. GOD CHOOSES PEOPLE WHO DESIRE TO DO HIS WILL

"Then Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord; my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl. From now on, all people will say that I am blessed," (Luke 1:46–48, NCV)

"I desire to do your will, my God..." (Psalm 40:8, NIV)

"Our only goal is to please God..." (2 Corinthians 5:9, NCV)

*"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them." (Luke 2:19, The Living Bible)* 

# What is my passion?

2. GOD CHOOSES PEOPLE WHO DECIDE <u>TO PAY THE PRICE</u>

#### God's Plan

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"" (Luke 1:31–33, NLT)

#### Mary's Response:

*"Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her." (Luke 1:38, NLT)* 

"And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" (Luke 14:27–28, NLT)

"But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile—now I've thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone." (Philippians 3:7, The Living Bible)

## What am I willing to pay?

# 3. GOD CHOOSES PEOPLE WHO DARE TO TRUST HIS PROMISES

"Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you; so the baby born to you will be utterly holy—the Son of God...For every promise from God shall surely come true." (Luke 1:34-35,37, The Living Bible)

JESUS: "What is impossible for people is possible with God."" (Luke 18:27, NLT)

(Elizabeth to Mary): "You believed that God would do what he said; that is why he has given you this wonderful blessing." (Luke 1:45, The Living Bible)

### What is keeping me from trusting Him?

ACTION: Let God rewrite your story – CLASS 101 Learn how to tell His story – SHARE CLASS Release your #story on Social Media by Easter!