



***With Us Title***  
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**“Invitation to Obedience”**  
**December 17, 2023**

**Key Verses:** Luke 1:26-38, Exodus 3:1-12, Psalm 27

**Key Thought:** When there is an encounter with the Lord, there is an invitation to obedience.

**Points to Consider:**

- The journey of Mary and her invitation to obedience. As we read in Luke 1:26-38, Mary’s encounter with the Angel seems more of a command. But Mary had a choice. She did not have to say yes. It was an invitation to obedience. Mary’s response was and is critical.
- Another call to obedience was Moses as he was called to lead his people out of Egypt. Exodus 3:1-12.
- Both Mary and Moses felt unqualified, unprepared and fearful.
- **When there is an encounter with the Lord, there is an invitation to obedience.**
- There are several distinct characteristics of God’s call:
  - i. *Gets our attention* – God will get our attention. With Mary, she was troubled and trying to discern. The Angel states “No not be afraid” because she WAS afraid. Got Moses’ attention with a burning bush that was not consumed
  - ii. *Calls us by name* – He used their names and called them to a specific purpose.
  - iii. *Reminds us He is WITH US* – it is scary to step into the unknown. But Jesus says “you will find me there”
  - iv. *Is out of concern for His people* – Jesus is always concerned with the needs of his people.
- *What does Obedience to God look like?*
  - i. *Obedience requires trust:* If God calls you – He will prepare you and He will provide for you.
  - ii. *Obedience requires sacrifice:* Anyone called by God like Mary and Moses will have to sacrifice something.
  - iii. *Obedience requires surrender:* If we want Jesus to be in our lives, we must offer ourselves to God everything. He never forces the divine presence upon us – He waits for our freely given yes.
  - iv. *Obedience results in greater intimacy with God:* My presence will go with you and I will give you rest. He wants to be WITH US.

**Discussion Prompts:**

- When have you experienced God’s presence? What types of encounters with God have you had?
- What is God calling you into obedience to do? Is it church related or something else in your life?
- Do you want to know God more? How can you assume a posture of surrender?