



**Christmas Eve at Epic - Part 5 - Letting Go of Control
Pastor Mark Rouse - December 24, 2019**

- **When we try to control the uncontrollable, the result is WORRY.**

Mary Hears about the Birth of Jesus (Luke 1)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary.

She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!" ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." - Luke 1:26-34

Trying to Control the Uncontrollable

- **Unavoidable CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- **Unbearable PEOPLE.**
- **Unexplainable PROBLEMS.**

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God... ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail." - Luke 1:35, 37

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." - Luke 1:38

- **We let go of our need for control with SURRENDER.**

"If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." - Matthew 10:39

Question for 2020:

- **What am I trying to CONTROL that I need to surrender?**

Epic Church Holiday Schedule:

- Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services (2:00, 3:30 & 5:00pm) at the Main-Transit Banquet Hall (6777 Main St. Williamsville, NY 14221)
- Sunday, December 29 - No Sunday Services
- Sunday, January 5 - 9:00 & 10:30am services resume at the Regal Cinemas Transit Center