

inSIGNIFICANT
Mary's Willingness
Luke 1:26-38

This coming Tuesday, December 7, marks the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor...

In February, 1932, rear Adm. Harry Yarnell, who was a believer in the power of the airplane, set out to prove to the Navy the power of airplanes in war...

With 3 aircraft carriers and 152 aircraft he sat out early morning for a surprise attack...

When daylight came, the planes appeared over the base from the Koolau Range, striking aircraft on the ground and bombarding the ships in the harbor.

Fortunately though the base itself was strewn with dead flares and sacks of flour rather than bombs and bullets...

It should have been a wake up call. Instead the Navy cried foul and declared the exercise illegal, stating that it would have been on alert if the country were actually at war.

The Japanese Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, however, took note...

Through the reports from Japanese spies on the islands, he became convinced that aircraft carriers carrying planes could cripple the Naval fleet of the United States enough to keep us from entering the war...

→ Pic of Yamamoto



On December 7, 1941, at approximately 8:00 AM Hawaii time, 353 airplanes launched from 6 aircraft carriers waged a SEVEN HOUR attack on the Naval base at Pearl Harbor.

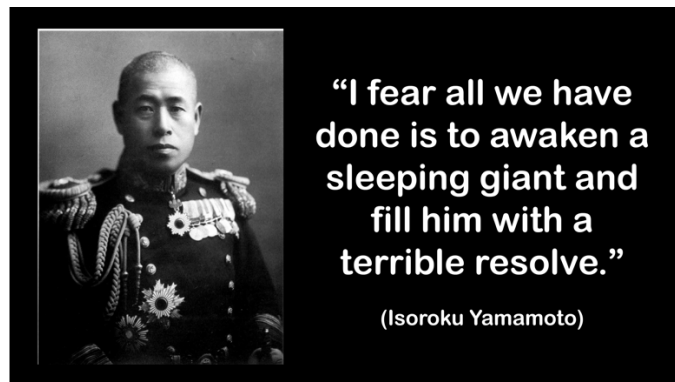
A total of 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed; 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded.

This launched the United States to officially enter WWII.

Yamamoto's decision to bring a surprise attack against the United States in order to keep America out of Japan's advancements in Southeast Asia was the turning point in WWII...

Following Japan's attack and America's response, Yamamoto said the following...

→ Pic of Yamamoto Quote



"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

(Isoroku Yamamoto)

We are starting a NEW SERIES today!

I've titled it, "*inSIGNIFICANT*"

The subtitle focuses in on what we are going to attempt to realize...

"Decisions that lead to Destinies"

ONE THING

The decisions we choose lead us to the destinies we reach

**Our DAILY decisions determine our DIRECTIONS,
but our FAITH decisions determine our DESTINIES!**

Luke 1:26–38 (ESV) — 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from 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. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And 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 bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 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. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 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.

1. The Lord has an INTIMATE AWARENESS of You

Luke 1:26–29 (ESV) — In the sixth month 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.

There are a couple of things of importance here...

First, "... sent from God..."

Who was this Mary?

Was she someone of great importance among the Jews?

Had she received a great education and training preparing her for such a responsibility?

NO!

→ Nazareth... Nothing more than a spot in the road...

- There is no mention of Nazareth in the OT**

→ According to early church writings Mary was somewhere between 12-14 years old

→ Growing up in such a place to a peasant family she was illiterate...

In other words, Mary was a nobody, from nowhere, going nowhere...

Yet she was known by God!

Psalm 139:16 (ESV) — Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

2. The Lord has a DIVINE ASSIGNMENT for You

Luke 1:30–35 (ESV) — 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.

Mary was not questioning God’s ability, but rather the means by which the Lord would use...

This was radically different than Zachariah’s response to the angel Gabriel just six months earlier...

Luke 1:18–20 (ESV) — And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

The assignment the Lord has for you is bigger than you!

The assignment the Lord has for you is impossible for you!

That’s why the Lord chooses people like Mary and people like you and me...

Not because we “HAVE WHAT IT TAKES”, but because WE DON’T!

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (ESV) — For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

3. The Lord wants a FAITH AGREEMENT from You

Luke 1:36–38 (ESV) — 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 of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

***inSIGNIFICANT!
Mary’s Willingness
Luke 1:26-38***

**Our _____ decisions determine our _____,
but our _____ decisions determine our _____!**

**1. The Lord has an _____
of You**

2. The Lord has a _____ for You

**3. The Lord wants a _____
from You**

December 5, 2021

Crossgates AM Message

David Jett