

The Unbelievable Sign: The Virgin Birth and the Son of God

Overview

This sermon explores Luke 1:21–56, focusing on the announcements and miraculous pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary, and the profound implications of the virgin birth of Jesus. The message emphasizes God's method of revealing truth through signs that are not easily believed, culminating in the resurrection of Jesus as the ultimate confirmation of His identity as the Son of God.

Core Scripture:

- Luke 1:21–56
- Romans 1:1–4
- Psalm 2
- Isaiah 7:10–14
- Acts 13:29–41

Key Narrative Points

- **Background:** After centuries of prophetic silence, God breaks through by sending the angel Gabriel to Zacharias and then to Mary, announcing two miraculous births: John the Baptist and Jesus.
- **Elizabeth's Experience:** Elizabeth, considered barren and shamed in her culture, conceives in old age. She hides her pregnancy for five months, reflecting both hope and cautious faith.
- **Mary's Encounter:** Gabriel visits Mary in Nazareth, announcing she will conceive by the Holy Spirit. Mary is troubled but responds with faith and humility, becoming a model of trust in God's word.
- **Theological Emphasis:** The virgin birth is presented not as a believable story, but as an unbelievable sign that demands faith. The message underscores that God often works in ways that defy human expectation or logic.

Deep Dives & Lessons

The Nature of Faith

- **Faith in Waiting:** Both Elizabeth and Mary display faith in God's promises before their fulfillment, showing that faith often involves waiting in uncertainty.
- **Mary's Response:** Mary's famous words, "Let it be to me according to your word," exemplify humble submission to God's plan, even when it carries social risk and personal cost.

The Virgin Birth: A Deliberate Mystery

- **Unbelievable by Design:** The virgin birth is not meant to be easy to accept. It is a sign that, by its very nature, resists human explanation or fabrication.
- **Prophetic Roots:** Isaiah 7:14 foretold a virgin would conceive—a sign no one would naturally request, making it all the more remarkable and unmistakably divine.
- **Historical Testimony:** The message stresses that the biblical accounts are themselves historical evidence, written by those who claimed to be eyewitnesses.

Jesus' Identity and the Resurrection

- **Son of God Declared:** While Jesus is called the Son of God from conception, the ultimate public declaration comes at His resurrection (Romans 1:4), which God uses to claim Jesus as His own before the world.
- **Contrast with John:** John the Baptist's birth is celebrated openly; Jesus' birth is shrouded in suspicion and misunderstanding. God's validation comes later, reinforcing the principle that truth stands regardless of public acceptance.

Application for Believers

- **Belief Despite Unbelief:** The story challenges believers to trust God's word, even when it seems unbelievable or when evidence is not immediately visible.
- **True Faith vs. Superstition:** Genuine faith is more than tradition or sentiment; it is wholehearted trust in God's promises, especially when they defy human understanding.
- **Urgency of Decision:** The call is to respond to Jesus now, in faith and surrender, rather than waiting for undeniable proof that may come too late.

Reflections & Encouragement

- **God's Ways Are Not Ours:** God does not seek to win followers through easily accepted stories, but by revealing Himself in ways that require faith, culminating in the resurrection.
- **Mary and Elizabeth as Models:** Their stories encourage believers to treasure God's promises, ponder them deeply, and hold fast during times of doubt or misunderstanding.
- **The Power of the Resurrection:** The resurrection is presented as the ultimate evidence of Jesus' identity, transforming an unbelievable story into an undeniable reality.

Prayer Highlights

- Gratitude for God's mysterious and faithful ways.
- A request for deeper faith and willingness to believe God's word even when it challenges logic or social norms.
- Blessing over the congregation, their fellowship, and shared meals.

“Let God be true and every man a liar.”

Belief in Jesus is not based on the believability of the story, but on the truth God has revealed and confirmed through His mighty works. Now is the time to believe, trust, and surrender fully to Him.