

Date: 12/3/17

Scripture: Luke 1:26-37

Message title: (Fear not series part #1) Fear of What God is asking me to do.

We will be studying Luke chapter 1 for Christmas this year: Week 1- Fear of what God is asking me to do. Week 2- Fear of what people think about me. Week 3- Fear of what God thinks about me.

Have you ever seen someone and you know they were going to ask you to do something? AVOID!!

We treat God that way sometimes...FEAR if what He is going to ask me to do.

EX. Might send me to Africa, Give something up, move to PO start a church.

Many will say, fear is the opposite of faith! **FEAR IS FAITH!** Faith in the, what if's?

Ex. Lose my job? Economy falls apart? Spouse cheats? Cancer? My kid never comes home? Never marry (find the one)?
Marry a jerk, and my kids look like him?

FEAR drives us to irrational panic! It places our thoughts on the worst case senecio.

Story: Micaiah getting bit by a red ant.
Now we tend to live in FEAR of the what if??

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7 NASB)

Why are we so afraid of God's plans? - Jer 29:11 (Hope and future)

1) God's interruptions are often inconvenient

T- Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favorable one (name. exalted one)! **The Lord is with you.**" **29** But she was very perplexed (confused and disturbed) at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. (Luke 1:26-29 NASB)

We have the wrong view of God's angels. Bald naked babies playing a harp on a cloud. They are fierce creatures that obey God, destroy God's enemy. Assisting in a spiritual battle.

Mary is set to be married. **engagement-** formal agreement by fathers/ **betrothal-** ceremony of mutual promises/**Marriage-** approximately one year later, when the bridegroom came for his bride at an unexpected time)

Imagine Mary: Searching on Pinterest, New last name, Brain storming for kids names.

Then God interrupts - inconvenient for Mary

What we call interruptions, God calls invitations.

Interruptions should set our direction toward heaven. Once our direction is set, we will see the invitation and opportunity.

1) Moses- burning bush 2) Jonah-fish 3) Saul- light (**direction set**)

Story: Meeting Denise. Tire Kingdom

T-VS.30 "**Don't be afraid**, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!

How many of you want favor with God?

2) God's purpose is often different than your plans.

Our plans many times can be a compromise, rushed, un-prayerful, lacking wisdom and counsel. **How many want God's plans?**

The Lord wants to bless you! Pour out favor, grace, and LOVE! However, what He is looking for is your heart.

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.
(Proverbs 16:9 NLT)

T- VS 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **32** "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

WOW- I'm going to give birth to the SON of God.
What are they going to say about me?
What will Joseph think?

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9 NIV)

Do you want to know what I think? NO YOU DON'T

God's purpose is often different than our plans!

Ex. Loss of a job (CWS), Can't bear children (Steve and Sandra Houge), Spouse doesn't LOVE you anymore,,,

Interruptions are invitations

So Mary turns her direction towards the LORD....

T- VS. 34: Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

This is impossible!! In fact this is absurd!!
Kind of like meeting Katie. :-)

We will say...I don't understand how my marriage will make it, Heal from these wounds, How we will pay the bills? Survive this storm?

We don't have to understand everything, but take comfort and rest in a God who does!! **FEAR NOT!!**

Many things that come into our lives are a **GOD SIZED JOB!**

T- VS 35: The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the **power** of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

overshadow: (*to cover with a cloud-GLORY*)

This cloud was a **visible** manifestation of the glory and presence of God; this means that the same power of God that was with Moses and others in the Old Testament was now going to do a unique work in the life of Mary.

This unique work will overshadow you too!

T- 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. **37** **"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

When God is overshadowing nothing will be IMPOSSIBLE!!

Can you change your spouse? ———Can God change spouse?
Can you heal a loved one? ———Can heal your loved one?
Can you save your unsaved? ———Can Good save your unsaved?

What is God asking you to do, or to believe?

What has God spoken to you that FEAR and DOUBT has destroyed?

Dream again, live again, believe again! FEAR NOT!!

Start a ministry? write book? Sign up to become part of the impact team, go back to college? break up with a person? Start that business in 2018, Try to mend a relationship with family?

What's our RESPONSE, we try, give it our all, and the results are not what we expected?

3) Outcome is God's responsibility. Obedience is yours.

Going full time at Venture. KIRK - Tampa, God guides and provides!

Maybe the LORD is calling you to adopt, start giving 20%, join a community group, support a child in need, foster, live on mission and share the gospel.

Close: Guitar or piano only

T- VS:38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant (servant by choice) of the Lord; may it be done (**NO FEAR!!**) to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary made a choice! Lord your plans are better! Lord whatever you say...I'm okay with whatever you say...

Don't run from God, run towards Him!!

Don't be fearful of what God is calling you to do, believe by faith that He is more than ABLE to accomplish all that He has called you to and all that He has promised!

Prayer:

- 1) Obedience for next steps- God's will
- 2) Become a Christ follow. The Lord's servant. SALVATION AND SURRENDER

AMEN!