



Week 1

Tension of Christmas

Sermon Notes

Luke 1:26-28

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Virgin Birth reveals:

1. In Jesus, God began a new creation where sin's power is broken

2. Jesus was God's Son before he was conceived in Mary's womb.

Jesus lived in the tension between two worlds.

Jesus was conceived of the spirit to become man – We are born of the spirit when we come to Christ.

We live between two worlds

We have joy because we are God's people

- New creation
- New life
- New fruit

We bring the joy of heaven to this world

- New family
- New home

Joy in the tension

- We don't need to find more joy; we need to be filled with the holy spirit.

Questions to Consider

Buddy the elf lived in the harshness of New York with the attitude of the North pole. Do you relate to having a different spirit than that of this world?

In what ways did Jesus live in the tension between two worlds?

We also live in the tension of two worlds. Who gives us the attitude of joy, and how does that impact how we respond to the world?

How would people around us be impacted if we really lived with an attitude of joy contrary to the harsh world?

Prayer Requests

Take prayer requests and pray for one another.

