

Advent Conspiracy Series

“Worship Fully”

Matthew 1-2/Luke 1-2

Luke 1:35-38

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.”

Our Advent Conspiracy series is intended to help us re-boot our approach to Christmas, and to re-discover the true mystery and wonder of this season. It begins with worship. Everything else we might re-discover about Christmas begins here.

1. Mary dared to believe the possibilities. (Luke 1:37)

³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”

So here's the key question: *Would you have the courage when confronted by God to do something that would change your life?*

2. Joseph dared to obey even when he didn't understand.
(Matthew 1:18-25)

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his. But he had no union with her until she had given birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

So here's the key question: *Are you willing to sacrifice your personal preferences in order to obey God to do something that may seem strange?*

3. The Shepherds dared to go into the unfamiliar, and share the exciting results with everyone. (Luke 2:8-20)

¹⁵ *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

¹⁶ *So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

So here's the key question: *Are you willing to leave everything you know or have been taught to do—and be willing to see the manger in a way that you've never viewed before?*

4. The Wise Men dared to give gifts that honored the true purpose of Christmas. (Matthew 2:1-12)

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

So here's a couple of key truths:

- *If they could leave the pressures and expectations of their culture in order to find Jesus, then so can we.*
- *If the Wise Men offered meaningful gifts that honored Jesus, then so should we.*