

### Many different feelings at Christmas

In light of what Jesus has done for me by giving His life for me, what am I to do with <u>unhealthy</u> fears that seek to <u>control</u> my heart?

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. 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.



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.



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- "God <u>loves</u> to use small things for His glory"
- House of David lived as the poor but were of royal blood, hope was found in the coming Messiah
- "God always *fulfills* His promises on His *timetable*"

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- Greatly troubled; Discern v.29 angel appearance
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- How will this be.. v.34 questioning heart
- "Jesus desires to fill my heart with His love and trust and not <u>information</u> and <u>control</u>."

Luke 1:39

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,



### Fear magnifies the issues <u>around</u> me

- Why am I pregnant without being married?
- Why did God not wait until just before the marriage to make Jesus coming more convenient?
- What will Joseph do when he finds out?
- What was the purpose of wise men coming to stir up Herod resulting in deaths of male babies and 2 years of living in Egypt?

### Fear magnifies the issues <u>in</u> me

- Fear can show me:
  - what *idols* are in my life
  - where I <u>lack</u> God's love in my heart
  - truly what I believe in my heart about my God
  - past experiences that need <u>healing</u> in my life
  - growth areas to deeper *intimacy* with my Pursuer

#### 1 John 4:16-18

So we have come to *know* and to *believe* the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and *God abides in him*. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but *perfect love* casts out *fear*. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.



#### Isaiah 41:8-10

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have *chosen*, the offspring of Abraham, my *friend*; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



#### Lord's Table

#### Prayer:

Jesus, I bring my unhealthy fears to you this morning and ask you to replace them with your love. You know exactly the source of my fears and what they seek to do to me. I want to receive you and your love with no turning back to those fears. Thank you, Jesus, for loving me even though my heart contains unhealthy fears.