

Christmas Outside the Box: Expect the Unexpected

Christmas for the Well Prepared

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Main Idea: Let Go: God has a Much Better Plan

“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 & said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, & 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 & bear a son, & you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great & will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, & he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & 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, & 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, & this is the sixth month with her who is 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.”

Luke 1:26-38

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man & unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, & you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son & he called his name Jesus.”

Matthew 1:18-25

The Well-Prepared MUST be Prepared to...

I. **Believe an Impossible Story – Luke 2:26-37**

Mary was probably between 13-15 years old at this time. She was betrothed to a carpenter named Joseph, and an angel told her...

- **Mary Was Favored:** Chosen by God!
- **Mary Had the Presence of God:** Not a wish..a fact! God IS with us!
- **Mary Enjoyed God’s Grace:** She had been graced with grace!
- **Mary Was Going to be...Pregnant?** She was going to have a baby!

Good News: The good news of this pregnancy was not the timing, not Mary & not the angelic messenger. The good news of this pregnancy is...

- **Her Son will be Great** – Unmatched & Incomparable.
- **Her Son will be the Son of the Most High** – He is a cc of God!
- **Her Son will Sit on the Throne of David** – Israel’s greatest king will have to move over for the King of Kings!

- **Her Son will Reign over the House of Jacob** – He is Israel’s Savior!
- **Her Son will Establish a Kingdom that Will Never End** – The birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension & return of Jesus Christ will change the world for all eternity!

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” **Isaiah 9:6-7**

II. **Rethink an Indisputable Betrayal – Matthew 1:18-23**

“If there is a betrothed virgin, & a man meets her in the city & lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, & you shall stone them to death with stones...” **Deuteronomy 22:23-24a**

“They said to him, ‘We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father – even God.’” **John 8:41b**

“Those who deny Christ’s virgin birth deny His eternal Godhead and deity. Either He is God, or He is an imposter.” **Warren Wiersbe**

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & shall call his name Immanuel.” **Isaiah 7:14**

No Ordinary Conception, No Ordinary Baby

- **Jesus** – Savior from the Hebrew name *Joshua* – **Name**
- **Christ** – anointed, the Greek equivalent of *Messiah* – **Title**
- **Immanuel** – God with us, this is who He is – **Identity**

III. **Trust a Much Better Plan**

“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.” **Luke 2:38** - *“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son & he called his name Jesus.”*

Matthew 1:24-25

“And taking with him Peter & the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful & troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, & watch with me.’ And going a little farther he fell on his face & prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’” **Matthew 26:37-39**

Jesus Let Go!!!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Strong’s Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *New Bible Commentary* – Carson, France, Motyer & Wenham (1994)
- *Holman Old Testament Commentary* – Max Anders (2004)
- *New American Commentary* – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Wilmington’s Bible Handbook* – Harold Wilmington (1997)

