

HIGHLY FAVORED, DEEPLY TROUBLED

Luke 1:26-38; 46-55

SERMON SUMMARY:

We often wish to ourselves that God would simply tell us what to do next. Would that not make our lives easier? Well, the angel Gabriel told Mary exactly what would come next, and she was deeply troubled. Yet, God provided Mary with what she needed to be the mother of the Messiah. In our time today, we will glean from Mary's story as we take another step toward celebrating Christmas.

SERMON OUTLINE:

Mary and the Messenger

God's plan can trouble us.

God calms the troubled.

God empowers the fearful.

Response

Magnify the Lord.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- Share a time when you felt troubled or uncertain about a situation. How did you navigate through it, and did you see God's plan unfold in unexpected ways?
- Imagine yourself in Mary's shoes when the angel Gabriel appeared—how might you have responded to such an extraordinary message?
- Discuss instances where fear held you back from embracing God's plan or calling, and share how you found strength and empowerment from God to overcome that fear.
- How can we practice magnifying the Lord during challenging times, and what are some practical ways to keep our focus on God when faced with difficulties?
- Examine Mary's song of praise (Luke 1:46-55): which verses resonate with you the most, and how can we incorporate a similar attitude of gratitude and praise in our own lives?