



We All Need a Message of Peace this Christmas Luke 1:26-38

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of a stressor in your life—something that seems determined to erode your peace? The American Psychiatric Association discovered in their 2025 ***Stress in America***[™] survey that the top stressors Americans face today are:

- The future of the nation: 77%.
- The economy: 73%.
- Inadequate emotional support: 69%.
- Personal and family health concerns: 65%.

- . Societal division / social and emotional disconnection: 62%.

Today our Advent focus is peace. This morning we'll pick up where we left off last week in the birth narrative of Jesus and look into the life of Mary. As we do, we discover a principle from Mary's life that leads us to peace in our lives:

Peace is found where faith and surrender meet.

There are choices Mary made, and there are choices we make that lead our hearts toward peace, even among life's biggest stressors.

The stressors in Mary's world are not unlike our own:

The future of the nation: Israel lived under Roman domination.

The economy: Rome's tax system created widespread poverty.

Inadequate emotional

support/disconnection: With an unwed teen

pregnancy, Mary's network of emotional support is out the window!

Mary's life wasn't calm. Yet she had peace, and shows us the way to it:

Peace is found where faith and surrender meet.

Let's look first at Mary's faith.

- You know the story: a young teenage virgin named Mary, an angelic appearance, the stunning announcement "*The Lord is with you!*", the miraculous—if unorthodox—conception, and then Mary's very human question: "**How will this be, since I am a virgin?**"
- Look at the angel's response in verse 35.
- But that's what faith is, isn't it? It is choosing to believe when you can't see the way or when you see that there is no way.
- And the foundation of Mary's faith is the foundation of our faith:
³⁷ "**For nothing will be impossible with God.**"

- Our confidence rests here: The same God who raised Jesus from the dead can do anything (Romans 10:9).

But faith alone does not bring peace. You can believe God is able to do anything and still not know the details of His will. You can believe Christ can calm the sea and still experience shipwreck—just ask Paul!

Peace is found where faith and surrender meet.

Now let's look at Mary's surrender.

³⁸ "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

The way to peace is this: being confident God can do all things and surrendered to whatever those things are!

As we close, let me give you a simple "Peace Checklist" for this Advent season:

1. *A right relationship **with** God.
Peace with God precedes the peace of God
(Romans 5:1).*
2. *Faith **in** God. Nothing is impossible with
Him.*
3. *Surrender **to** God. A yielded heart is a
peaceful heart.*

Which step is God calling you to today?