



When God Came to Visit Mary (Peace)
Luke 1:26-38

God's peace comes in the most troubling situations!
Verses 26-29:

Text Message:

- Let's look at Verse 29 again, and specifically, a key phrase: But she was greatly troubled at the saying..."
- The phrase, "greatly troubled" in the original language (Greek) is διαταρασσω (*diatarraso*), and it is important here, as this is the only time the word occurs in the entire New Testament!
- The root verb of this word occurs 17x in the NT and is used of stirring something up, such as water or even "stirring up" a crowd of people.
- The root verb is also used of deep emotional trouble, such as:
 - 1) The disciples' fear seeing Jesus walk on the sea (Matt. 14:26).
 - 2) Zechariah's fear at seeing the angel (Luke 1:12).
 - 3) Jesus' spirit, knowing He would be betrayed (John 13:21).
- However, the word that is used to describe Mary being "greatly troubled" intensifies the verb!
- It's as if Mary is troubled "through and through!"
- It is into this unpeaceful stress that God speaks, "Do not be afraid" (Verse 30).
- Mary's stress is also a symbol of Israel's stress at the time...
- Like Mary, we cannot always eliminate the sources of stress, but we can choose the pathway of peace God provides.

God's peace comes without all the "pieces!"

Verses 30-35:

Text Message:

- We are people who want all the pieces! We want to know exactly **how** things will turn out well!
- Yet this is the peace of the world, not the peace that God/Christ give (John 14:27; 16:33)!
- The peace that Christ gives is in knowing Jesus has overcome the world!
- Notice how Mary doesn't get all the pieces. First, she asks a very good question: "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" Verse 34
- Look at the answer to her question in Verse 35. The answer doesn't give her all the pieces but further puzzlement and questions!
- Our peace, too, comes not when our questions are answered, but in knowing Christ the Overcomer!

God's peace comes when we surrender to God's possibilities!

³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."

Text Message:

- Twice the verb "behold" appears here, which indicates something important to be paid attention to ("Check this out!").
- While the angel doesn't give Mary all the pieces of the puzzle, what he does do is:
 - 1) Reveal to her how God is already working (Verse 36).
 - 2) Reminds her of God's power (Verse 37).
- When we do not have all the pieces, we can do as Mary did: ³⁸ 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.
- Pay attention to the final phrase of Verse 38. Mary, once "greatly troubled," is now at peace through quiet surrender.
- Now Mary, like us, must walk a walk of faith.
- **AND** this is what Advent Peace is about!