



Water Heater Maintenance Tips

Use these 6 easy and inexpensive ways to increase your water heater's efficiency and longevity.

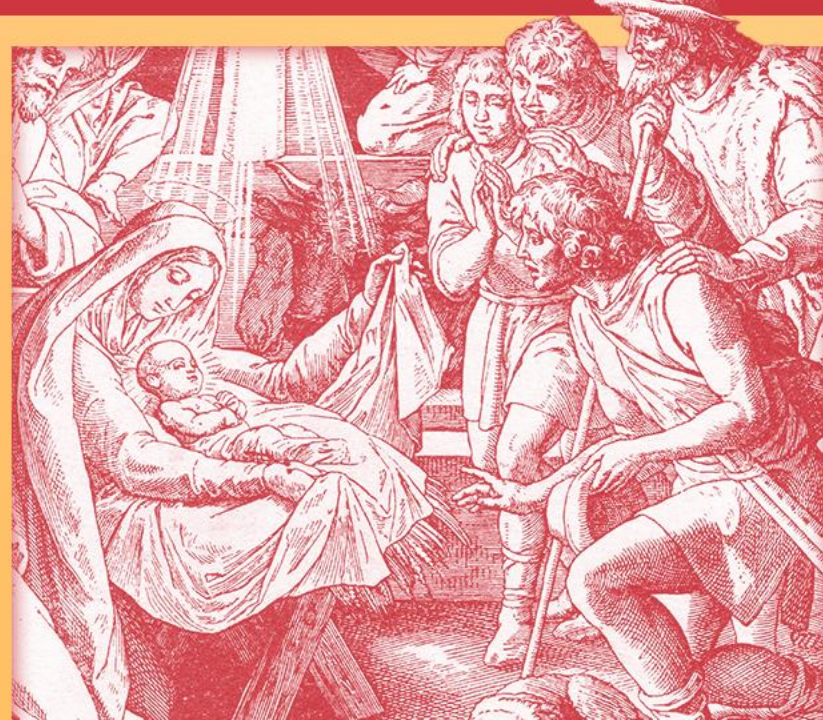
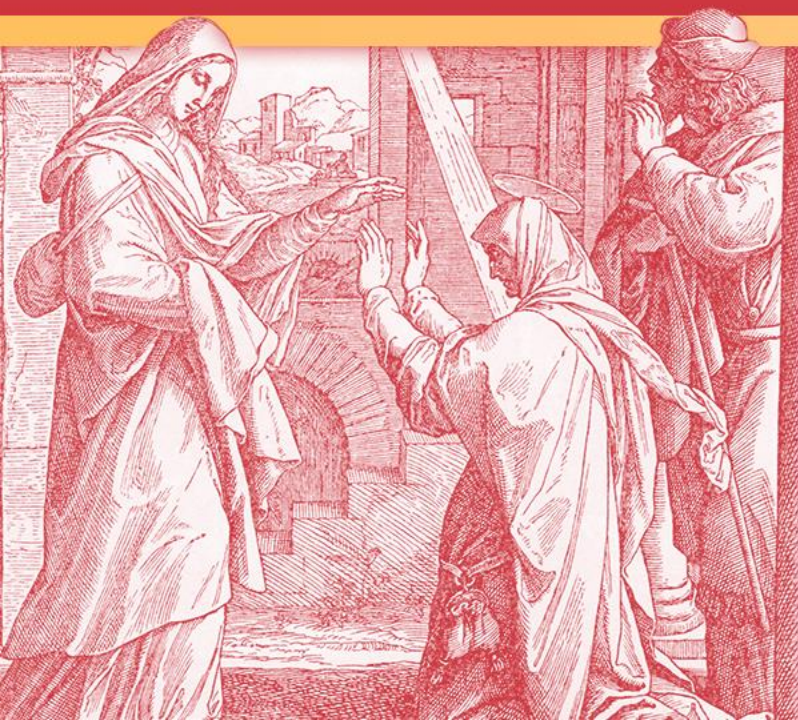
By Lance Marques

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ADVENT 2023

CHRISTMAS & PEOPLE LIKE US



²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ 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.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

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.” 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.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

CHRISTMAS  PEOPLE LIKE US

Christmas & the Lowly

Luke 1:26-38 (also Matthew 1:18-25)

- 1. Who are Mary and Joseph?**
- 2. What does God ask them to do?**
- 3. How do they respond?**



**What does it
mean for us?**

Who Are Mary and Joseph & what does it mean for us?

Betrothed

...a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:27

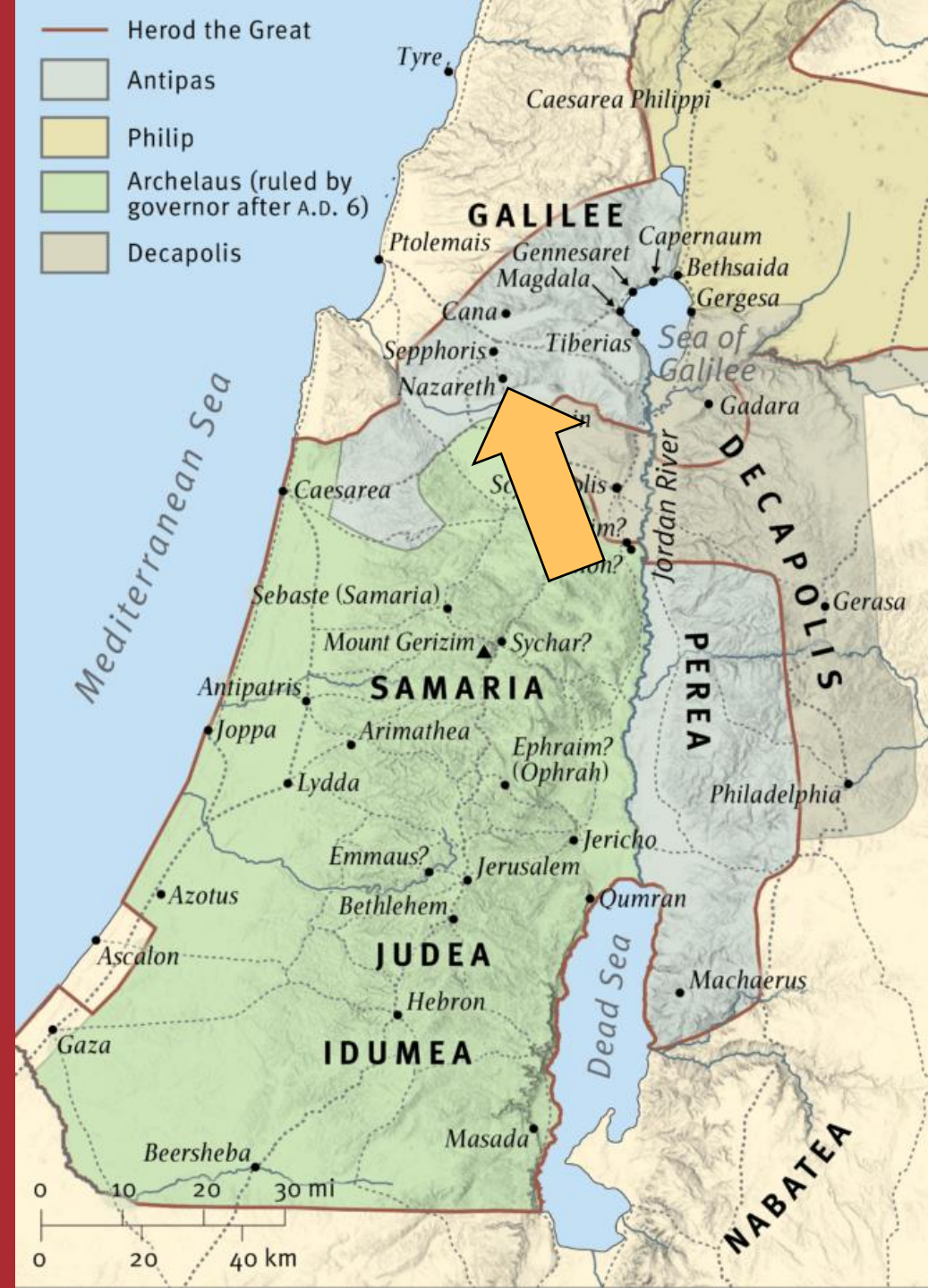
Betrothal \neq Engagement

Who Are Mary and Joseph & what does it mean for us?

From Nazareth

In the sixth month the
angel Gabriel was sent from
God to a city of Galilee
named Nazareth...

Luke 1:26



Who Are Mary and Joseph & what does it mean for us?

Of Humble Means

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:22-24



Who Are Mary and Joseph & what does it mean for us?



**Reveals the dignity of
all regardless of station
or status in this life**

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for *he has looked on the humble estate* of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. *And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.* He has shown strength with his arm; he has *scattered the proud* in the thoughts of their hearts; he has *brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.* He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Luke 1:46-55

What does God ask them to do & what does it mean for us?

The Virgin Mary will Give Birth to the Son of God

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.”

Luke 1:32-33



What does God ask them to do & what does it mean for us?

Joseph Will Raise Jesus With Mary

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 and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:18b-19

What does God ask them to do & what does it mean for us?

Joseph Will Raise Jesus With Mary

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, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20-21

What does God ask them to do & what does it mean for us?

1. **Jesus is our Almighty King**
2. **God may call us to embrace shame and reproach for his name**

How do they respond & what does it mean for us?

Wonder

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.

Luke 1:34-35

How do they respond & what does it mean for us?

Faith & Obedience

And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; *let it be to me according to your word.*”

Luke 1:38a

And *blessed is she who believed* that there would be a fulfillment of what was *spoken to her from the Lord.*

Luke 1:45

How do they respond & what does it mean for us?

Faith & Obedience

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. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:24-25

How do they respond & what does it mean for us?

1. Our extraordinary God invites ordinary people into his story

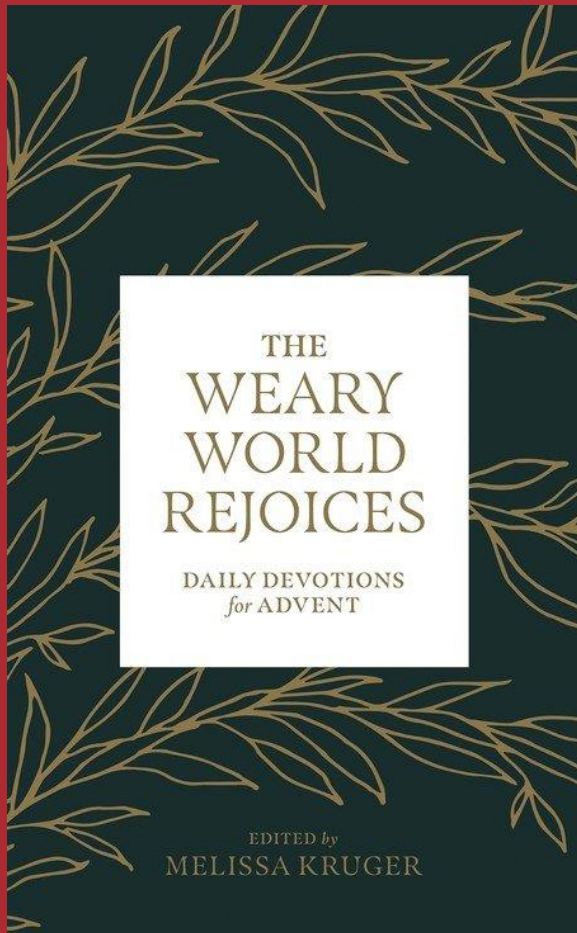
2. There is a connection between wonder, faith, & obedience

Take time to grow in wonder at what he has done through:

1) An Advent Devotional

2) Theologically rich Christmas music

Spotify Playlist:
bit.ly/AdventWonder





**Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb!
Luke 1:42b**



Just as the fruit of the first woman ushered in death and sin into the world, so the fruit of a woman would defeat sin and death.

**Dan Darling,
*The Characters of Christmas***