







#bestchristmasever **Get Real**

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

My Christmas To Do List

I need to face up to my real fears.

Proverbs 29:25 NCV

Being afraid of people can get you into trouble, but if you trust the Lord, you will be safe.

I need to seek God's favor over the favor of others.

v. 30

"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

I need to let real faith trump my fears.

What does real faith look like?

I believe God is messaging me.

I think seriously about what He is saying to me.

v. 29

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

I am honest about my doubts.

v. 34

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

I trust God will do what He says.

v. 37

For no word from God will ever fail."

I say "Yes" to His plan despite the difficulties.

v. 38

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

I process my problems in a faith community.

Luke 1:42-45

In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

The best Christmas ever is to hear God say these three things:

I am with you.

I am gifting you favor.

I am going to fulfill my promises.

