

# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, December 8, 2024

## ***The Unlikely Characters of Christmas: Mary & Joseph***

“And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.” Luke 1:36-37 (MSG)

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 1:38 (ESV)

Mary’s Fiat: “I am the Lord’s servant; let it be to me according to your word.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. Matthew 1:24 (NIV)

God doesn’t just want to work in us. God also wants to work through us. God’s divine Christmas plan required a human “yes.” God chose to work through some of the most unexpected people at Christmas, and he continues to partner with humans to accomplish his plans in the world. Where in your life is God asking you to give a humble, courageous and willing yes?

### **Questions for thought and discussion:**

1. God could have orchestrated Jesus’ birth under much easier conditions. Why do you think God chose such humble and difficult conditions for Mary and Joseph?
2. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Jerusalem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus. What does this teach us about trusting God’s plans even when humans impose challenges?
3. How does their experience encourage you to trust God when your circumstances feel hard or unfair?
4. God often chooses unlikely people and uncomfortable situations to accomplish his purposes. Reflect on times you have been put in an uncomfortable situation that ultimately brought God glory. How did it impact your faith?
5. God repeatedly reminded Mary that he was especially fond of her (you have found favor in God’s eyes). God has a habit of showing up and reminding us of how he sees us when we need to hear it most. What does God want to say to you about how he sees you at this moment in your journey? How does it fit with how you see yourself? Whose vision are you going to choose to trust?

