

Dr. Terry E. Zebulske, Pastor
Grace Community Church
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THE GREATEST NEWS OF ALL HISTORY...

(Luke 1:26-38)

...There have been a some great announcements in human history "The eagle has landed," & "Victory in Europe" are a couple of those. Yet, *Gabriel* was given the privilege of announcing the greatest event of all, that of the coming of the Son of God. All other announcements pale by comparison to this one!

...The angel *Gabriel* was making his second appearance, this time approaching a young woman with a message from God. Mary was chosen to receive the greatest honor that any woman has ever been given, the mother of Jesus.

FIVE OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE GREATEST ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALL MOVING US TO RESPOND TO THE LORD WITH OBEDIENCE.

...For Mary does not extend any grace to us, but she does serve as a wonderful example in trusting God.

I. God Initiates: He Sent His Messenger To Announce Our Salvation. (v.26)

- A. God is sovereign and has an all-encompassing plan. It was now time for Him to send His Son.
- B. For this to occur, God moves toward us. We did not move toward Him. Never!
 - 1. God has always been the initiator. Creation reveals this as God spoke and everything came into being. Salvation is the same. We first saw this in the garden. (Gen 3)
 - 2. God sent His message to Mary by his angel *Gabriel*. "The Savior Is Coming!!!!"

II. God's Grace: It Is For The Lowly. (vv.26b-28)

- A. God sent His angel, not to Jerusalem, but to the lowly town of Nazareth, to a young woman.
 - 1. What a contrast to Zechariah, a priest in the Temple, Mary is an insignificant person in a small town. She is, "a nobody in a nothing town in the middle of nowhere."
 - 2. She is poor, uneducated, and probably a young teenager at this time.
 - 3. God could have sent His Son to the daughter of Caiaphas...wealthy, beautiful, etc., but He did not. This shouts to us of God's grace to the lowly and the humble.
...Remember: God resists the proud, and hates arrogance when found in us.
- B. All of this was to foreshadow the humiliation that Jesus would endure for the salvation of sinners. To rescue us from our sins, Jesus had to enter into the misery of our lost and fallen condition. So Mary is greeted: "you are highly favored! The Lord is with you." (v.28)

III. God Reveals: He Tells Us What We Need To Know. (vv.30-33,35-36)

- A. His announcement: You are going to have a son, and His name is to be Jesus. (v.31)
- B. This was no ordinary child, He was the One promised by God through the centuries.
 - 1. He will be great! (v.32) This is very different from His cousin John...
 - 2. He will be called, "Son of the Most High." "Son" means a carbon copy of His Father.
 - 3. He will be given the throne of His earthly father David. (2 Samuel 7)
 - 4. He will rule forever over Jacob's house and His kingdom will never end!!!
- C. The Holy Spirit will create this in your womb. "overshadow you" (v.35)

IV. God Does The Impossible: He Creates A Baby In A Virgin. (v.34)

- A. Mary interrupts this glorious announcement. She has two problems:
 - 1. She is engaged, "betrothed" to a man named Joseph. (v. 27)
...This is far more serious than our marriage engagement. It was a formalized public ceremony and lasted for a year. They did not enjoy sexual relations during this time.
 - 2. Mary was a virgin. "parthenos" Since she was a godly woman, Mary was keeping herself for marriage. She was preserving her sexual purity like a prize, the way every woman should.
- B. Her question is not one of unbelief, like Zacheriah's, but one of curiosity. How can this be?
...She wanted to know if there was anything she needed to do. This is a good & honest question.
..."The Creator who had brought life out of nothing and created human beings from dust is also able to create human life in the womb." "The laws of nature are not chains that God has laid...
...God gives Mary a sign to prove to her that He is sovereign over the womb...Elizabeth. (v.36)

V. God's Servant Responds: He Can Do With Her Whatever He Wishes. (v.38)

...She believed God and was willing to submit to God's will even though it would cause her much suffering.

...This is the right response for all of us, as we too offer ourselves as living sacrifices for His purposes.

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: