

## ***The Wonder of Christmas***

Luke 1:26-38

### **Introduction**

1. Its Christmas Day 2016 and I think because of how busy we all are get this time of year, its possible that we can loose the "Wonder of Christmas".
2. The words "I'm pregnant" are said every day in our world...
  - These are just two little words, but they are lifechanging words.
  - As a guy who is now a husband, father, grandfather and a great grandfather, I have heard these 2 words many times over the years.
  - I have experienced the full spectrum of emotions surrounding the subject of pregnancy, both the wonderful and the difficult all wrapped up in the same little package.

When it comes to pregnancy, there is one thing we must never forget no matter what the circumstances maybe...God says in Psalm 127:3 "Children are a gift from the Lord", they are a reward from Him.

- All children whether they are born perfect or not are absolutely perfect in God's eyes and "a miravle gift from God".
  - Jack Hayford said "The incarnation of Christ can be called the Mary Miracle from God".
  - A pregnancy is the ultimate analogy. Everything in life is "like" it. As with a pregnancy, everything is life starts with a possiblity and proceeds to a reality. The pattern of conception-to-delivery is rooted in the founding fundamentals of God's operational order of things. And life always is a miracle.
1. Physical life is a miraculus grace gift of God that is born out of two things. First love and then sacrifice. The same thing is true of the new birth...first love and the pain of sacrifice.

### 2. The Christmas Story is the story of a pregnancy born out of the love of God for mankind, resulting in suffering on the cross.

Go ahead and read the Christmas Story as found in Luke 1:26-38

#### Luke 1:26-38 English Standard Version (ESV)

##### Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed<sup>[a]</sup> to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>35</sup> 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<sup>[d]</sup> will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant<sup>[e]</sup> of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

...We could describe what we just read with one word, "ordinary".

1. Every thing we read about the story of the birth of Jesus was ordinary;
2. Its unbelievable that God would choose to cloth Himself in what could be called "The Ordinary".

The first thing we see in our story is...

### #1 The Place was ordinary

...in Luke 1:26 it says, "In the sixth month the angle Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee name Nazareth,

- a. Jesus was born in Bethlehem most likely in September, not December but He grew up in a town called "Nazareth", that's why he is refered to as a Nazarene. In John 1:43-46 it says this about Jesus and the place he was from...

## John 1:43-46 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

1. There is nothing significant or important about the little village of Nazareth. One Bible almanac said "Nazareth was considered to be a crude, backward place. It was an ordinary place. It may have been a little less than average."
  - a. That phrase stated by Nathaniel when he said "can anything good come out of Nazareth?" tells us a lot about what people thought about this little village and what people thought of Joseph.
  - b. Philip found Nathaniel and told him we have found the "Messiah"...the one talked about in the scriptures. "It is Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph".
  - c. I could hear him thinking...the son of who? And from where?
  - d. Joseph was basically a nobody who lived in a backward little village.
  - e. This would have been a lot for Nathaniel to swallow!
2. But for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, it was just home. It was where they grew-up, where they played, went to school...
3. The Mary Miracle took place right where she lived. It happened in the everyday ordinary circumstances of life and that is usually in the place that we find God working.

...The first thing we see is - #1 The place was ordinary (Luke 1:26) and next...

### #2 The Person involved was ordinary

- I believe Mary was just an ordinary girl with a simple faith in God...
- She was a normal teenage girl who was brought up in an ordinary home, waiting to enter an ordinary pre-arranged marriage to the town carpenter.

## Sunday Sermon Outline

- Mary would have been just like most girls, there was nothing special about her.
  - a. She would not have stuck out in the crowd, she was not considered royalty, there was not halo hovering over her head - she was a young girl that loved God.
- What qualified Mary to be the Messiah's mother?
  - a. Notice how Mary viewed herself in Luke 1:48...  
For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.
- This reveals that Mary had a humble heart - what is a humble heart? Do you have a humble heart like Mary?
  - Humility is key to joy and humility can be spelled like this...

**J**esus first;

**O**thers second; and

**Y**ou last.

- A humble heart is a heart that has no thought for itself. The opposite of humility is "Pride".
  - Pride is putting self-first and when you do not get what you want or things do not go the way you thought they would, you can become angry and you will be miserable.
  - But humility is being so focused on God - that you are not the issue - what you want is not the issue - God is all that matters and all that mattered to Mary was what God wanted - a great example.
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- God chose a most unlikely village and a most unlikely girl to be the mother of the savior of the world - she is not a queen, she is a teenage Jewish peasant girl who is going to marry a carpenter.
    - This has always been the "divine" way of things (for example):
      - David was a shepherd boy who became a King;

- Amos was a farmer who became a prophet;
- Peter was a simple fisherman who became an apostle;
- D.L. Moody was a shoe salesman who became a world-famous evangelist.
- It's been over 2,000 years and nothing has changed. "God still clothes Himself in the ordinary to reveal Himself to the world". Listen to these verses...1 Corinthians 1:26-29.
- Let me show you why He chooses Mary and why He chooses you too!

### **1 Corinthians 1:26-29 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>26</sup> Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy<sup>[a]</sup> when God called you. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup> God chose things despised by the world,<sup>[b]</sup> things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. <sup>29</sup> As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

<sup>30</sup> God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

### **2 Corinthians 4:7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

When I receive Christ as my Savior, I too was "incarnated" by God's Son just as Mary was.

Mary was only the first of many who would experience a "Mary Miracle".

Becoming a Christian is not becoming a church member or getting baptised or in some way changing how you live your life. No, its much more than that, it's "The supernatural invading the ordinary and making him or her extraordinary.

So the ordinary is "highly favored of God" Luke 1:28

28...The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.."

1. Mary was "Highly favored of God". The word conveys the idea of a person being "uniquely privileged and chosen by the Grace of God to accomplish a special task for God, a task that nobody else was asked by God to do.
2. There is one thing that we all need to know - "All saints are "highly favored" of God just like Mary.
  - The greek word used in Luke 1:28 translated as "high favored" is used twice in the New Testament. Once in Luke 1:28 referring to Mary and the other time in Ephesians 1:6 referring to all Christians...notice the word us...

### **Ephesians 1:6 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Notice the phrase freely given, that is the same greek word which it could say "which He has Highly Favored us in the one He loves.

1. The "us" is speaking of all of us like Mary we too have been "Highly Favored", we have been "uniquely privileged" by God to accomplish a special task for Him.
2. God not only had a plan for Mary's life, God has a plan for your life...

Here is the important thing to remember...you must have the same attitude that Mary had when she said this in Luke 1:38 "I am the servant of the Lord; Let it be to me according to your Word".

### **Conclusion**

Maybe you have come today and what you need is a "Mary Miracle"? You need to invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and forgive you of all your sins and give you the free gift of salvation.

## Sunday Sermon Outline

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There is no better time to do it than right now - today - by faith say yes to Him.

Maybe you are here and you have already trusted Christ as your savior but you need to be like Mary... you need to say as Mary said...

"Lord, I am your servant - use me as you will".

Closing Song....

Mary did you know...