

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #18 – Dec. 13th

Text: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” ³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God.” ³⁸“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Devotion: Adam Peitsch

“I am the Lord’s servant.”

What? Mary, do you realize what this guy just told you? A) You’re a virgin (which you probably already knew). B) You’re not married yet (which you also probably already knew). C) You’ve...found favor with God? Okay, that’s pretty exciting. D) Now, here’s where it gets interesting...you’re going to get pregnant. While A and B are still true. Not only that, but E) this baby is going to be called God’s own son. Whoa.

Talk about big news. Mary was blindsided by this. We don’t know if the angel appeared to her in a flash of light, we don’t know if some strange man walked up to her and shared this with her. Would it really matter to you though? Either way, she was just told that her life as she knew it was going to be thrown for a loop. Topsy turvy, upside-down (she would’ve felt right at home here in 2020!). This would make her an outcast, most likely - pregnant before married, Joseph would be confused, and she was chosen to be the mother of God’s own son. And her response echoes that of Jonah, right? She runs the opposite direction and hopes God doesn’t find her? No, no, that’s not it - she tries the Moses response - “God, you don’t want me, pick someone else to do it!”

Nope. None of that. In what might very well be the most amazing response in all of Scripture, Mary responds with amazing humility and shocking faith: “I am the Lord’s servant”. God, this is in Your hands. You’ve got it. Use me. The question she does ask isn’t that of “why me”, it isn’t resistance, it’s simply “how?”

What amazing faith. Has God ever given you life-changing news? Has your life ever been turned upside down in what seemed like an instant? Maybe God is taking you through something right now. In my life, when I’ve been called in certain directions, I’ve hemmed and hawed, hesitated, found excuses, asked the “what if” question - delaying what God has placed right in front of me, practically right in my lap, to do.

For me, Mary’s response is simply unbelievable, but I’m so grateful that God picked her to bear His son. Mary got to be a direct part of God’s great plan of salvation! What faith she had, and what an amazing example for us still today! I pray for you and for me that we would have the faith of Mary - that when God calls us to serve, we serve. When He asks us to go, we go. May you know, like Mary, the great honor of serving your Lord: “for nothing is impossible with God.”

Closing Prayer: All-knowing Father, you use the small and insignificant to accomplish your great purposes. Help me, like Mary, to serve you with complete faith, in humility, as you call me and wherever you may guide me. Thank you for the grace you give when I fail to trust in Your great plan. Amen.