

# *Christmas* – Luke 1:26–38

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

*34And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

*35And 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 will be called holy—the Son of God. 36And 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. 37For nothing will be impossible with God." 38And 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.*

The announcement to Mary parallels the announcement to Zechariah, but there are many significant differences. Luke identifies Mary as a virgin, engaged to Joseph. A Jewish betrothal involved two steps. First, the formal part including a contract and exchange of a bridal price. Second, usually a year later, a wedding. Although Mary's age is not given, it's thought she was about 12 years old. Mary is referred to as having favor with God. Simply put, she's the chosen vessel for God's grace. The angel reveals her older relative will also bear a child. With God "nothing will be impossible". Mary's response reveals her character.

Jesus' life is unique in origin, being born of a virgin. God's value of faithfulness and purity are seen here. Mary herself a virgin, is the one who carries the Son of Man. Joseph, faithful to his wife, brings the lineage of David with him and we see the promise in Isaiah 9:7 fulfilled. Together they covenant to raise their son.

1. What challenged you from this week's message?
2. What did you apply from last week's message or study?
3. What part of the Christmas season do you most enjoy celebrating? Is there any part of the season that is particularly difficult?

4. What is a significant decision you made in your life, yet did not know all the facts and details? (college, move to Chicago, job transition, etc.) How did you feel going to the decision? How did it play out?

**Read Luke 1:26 – 38**

5. What words and phrases does Luke use to describe Gabriel, Mary and Jesus?

Gabriel:

Mary:

Jesus:

6. Mary is greeted with statements and has the presence of mind to ask some questions. What statements are made to Mary in verse 28, 30-33, 35-37 and what was her response?

Verse

Statement

Mary's response

7. How would you describe Mary's temperament and demeanor? What does her response in verse 38 indicate?
8. What are some of the qualities that seem to make Mary unlikely candidate to be the mother of Jesus?

9. Luke 1:37 states “For nothing will be impossible with God”. What are the “impossible” things that God makes happen in verse 26 – 38?
  
10. This Christmas season, what challenges are you facing that, quite frankly, a solution is “impossible without God”?
  
11. Mary’s response in verse 38 is an example of true discipleship, where she is in submission to God’s word and promise. What are the areas of your life you’re wrestling with submission to God’s word and promises? What steps do you need to take to willingly submit?

### **Close in Prayer**

As a small group, share “impossible” challenges you are facing that only God can resolve. Pray that the joy of the season in relationships with family and friends.



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