

Christmas 2021 - The Intersection of Plans

The LORD meets us where we are.....and He takes us to new places!

Luk 1:26-49 ESV In 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. 28 And he came to her and said, "**Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!**" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.**

- Mary was living a life that was pleasing to God (a virgin)
- She had plans for marriage - (maybe a baby, a dog, a picket fence and a pickup truck???)
- But she was living just outside of **God's amazing plan**
 - It was the fulfillment of a 700 yr old prophecy (Isa 7:14) - and God wanted to use Mary

The intersection of plans

31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bear a son**, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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**, 33 and he will **reign over the house of Jacob forever**, and of his **kingdom there will be no end.**" 34 And Mary said to the angel, "**How will this be, since I am a virgin?**" 35 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 will be called holy--the Son of God. 36 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. 37 **For nothing will be impossible with God.**"

- When God's plan bumps up against my plan --- how will this be, since I am a virgin?
- He meets us where we are, and takes us to new places...**Her issue (I'm a virgin) was God's plan**
- The place he takes us is often beyond our capability or understanding

Four ways that God met Mary where she was and took her to new places

1) From fear to understanding how God looks at her - he knows her intimately, and is with her

- 28-30 "O favored one, the Lord is with you!"..."Do not be afraid Mary...you have found favor with God"

2) From **SERVING GOD** - to **SERVANT** of the LORD

- 38 And Mary said, "**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;**

3) From her plan to His word

- V 38 **let it be to me according to your word.**"

4) From "How can I?" to believing nothing is impossible

- 45 And blessed is she **who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken** to her from the Lord."

LORD - LEAD ME TO A NEW PLACE

It is possible to go through life - even living in the ways of God - yet never touch his purpose

God will meet us where we are and take us to new places - are you ready to go to a new place?

It may seem difficult or impossible, or you may feel inadequate - but in the end he will deal with the issues that stand in our way (fear, uncertainty, unbelief, stubbornness, lack of knowledge)