

Home Group Helps

Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation of Christ

I. Gabriel's Greeting (v.26-30) – ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God."

II. Gabriel's Announcement (v.31-33) – ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

III. Mary's Question (v.34) – ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

IV. Gabriel's Explanation (v.35-37) – ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ "For nothing will be impossible with God."

V. Mary's Godly Response (v.38) – ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What sort of emotions do you think Mary experienced during the annunciation of Christ?

2. Observation Question(s):

- In vs. 26, Luke states, ". . . the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth . . ."
- What is so special about Nazareth (this is a trick question)?
- Why does it make sense, according to God's way of doing things, that Jesus would be raised there?
- What are other examples in the Bible of God using the unspectacular, ordinary, failed things to bring Himself glory?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Why was it significant that Mary was a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14)?
- What sort of man will Mary's baby become (see Isaiah 9:6-7)?
- Luke tells us that Joseph was, "of the descendants of David" (v.28). Why is it important that Mary and Joseph be descended from David (see 2 Sam. 7:12, 16)?
- When Gabriel greets Mary he says, "Hail, favored one" or as Jerome translated in the Latin Vulgate, "full of grace."

- What is the appropriate (Biblical) way of understanding this greeting (hint: “favored one” is in the passive voice)?
- What is the inappropriate (but often taught) way of understanding this greeting?
- How is Gabriel’s explanation that Mary’s child will, “reign over the house of Jacob forever” relate to the prophecy concerning the tribe of Judah in Genesis 49:10?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Mary responded to the astonishing news that she, a virgin, would be mother to Messiah by saying, “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word” (v.38).
- What do you learn about Mary from this response?
- What do you learn about obedience in general from this response?

5. Application Question(s):

- What is occurring in your life right now where you need to say, “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word?”

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