

Luke 1:26–33

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by 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. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end."

He Shall Be Great Luke 1:32

INTRO:

In Luke 1, the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the virgin mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, ***"Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end'" (Luke 1:31-33)*** Reading this paragraph we may pause and ask ourselves, "How was He great?"

There are at least three ways in which our Lord Jesus was great. I know that there are many more, but for today we will consider these three.

I. He Was Great in His Condescension

December 20

, 2015

AM Message
Dr. Don Gommesen

Page 1

II. He Was Great in His Sin Bearing
III. He Will Be Great in His Appearing

I. He Was Great in His Condescension

A. Greatness to us usually does not include the idea of condescension. Greatness defines possessing a quality others do not have. Condescension in our Lord's case means His lowering Himself from His rightful exalted position.

B. The Apostle Paul tried to describe Our Lord lowering of Himself in **Philippians 2:5-8**.
“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

C. We cannot fully understand what this laying aside His glory for a time because we have never been God. The Apostle John told us how great our Lord Jesus Christ is and how far He stepped down to save us.

John 1:1-3 ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”***

He who is the second person of the Godhead, the eternal Son is the one who was born that first Christmas Day.

D. This is the same Lord Jesus who told a person who desired to follow Him,
Luke 9:58 ***“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head”***

Those who thought themselves to be great in the Lord's lifetime never acknowledged His greatness. Yet, the fact He was willing to become the “Man of Sorrows” made Him great in the Father's eyes.

Isaac Watts wrote:
*Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker died,
For man the creature's sin.*

II. He Was Great in His Sin Bearing

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ was indeed great in His condescension. He was also was also great in His sin bearing. Jesus became incarnate in Human flesh because we are all sinners. Sin demands a penalty. In **Romans 6:23** Paul wrote,

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We have all sinned and so we are condemned to die and ever be alienated from God. We could do nothing to change this. However, God the Father found a way to deliver us from sin.

B. Do you remember **Isaiah 53**?

Isaiah 53:4-6 ***“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”***

C. Paul exalted in this in **Romans 5:8**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Jesus became a man and dwelt among us so He might become our sin bearer. The Lord has laid on Him our iniquity. God put on His Son our sin and then sent Him to Calvary and there judged our sin in His Son. He died that we might live.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ***“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

The question is: Do you believe upon Him? Have you trusted Him to save you?

III. He Will Be Great in His Appearing

A. At Christmas we celebrate the “first appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We call it the first appearing because someday, He is coming again. Do you remember what happened in **Acts 1:10-11**?

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”

The same Jesus who went away will someday return.

B. However, when He returns in power and great glory at the end of the age, everything will be different. He will come to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That is when all the prophecies that speak of His being king will be fulfilled.

1. Remember **Isaiah 9:6-7**?

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

2. Micah pretty much said the same thing.

Micah 5:3-4 ***“Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall be secure, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth.”***

3. The Angel Gabriel guaranteed this to Mary also in our text.

Luke 1:31–33 ***“[The Angel Gabriel said to Mary] Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”***

C. In **Philippians 2:9-11** we are told,

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

At that moment, everyone who ever lived will admit that the Lord Jesus Christ is great to the glory of God the Father.

Do you have this Jesus as your Savior? You can if you will simply put your trust in Him alone to save you this Christmas season!

We Shall Behold Him 237