Announcing His Birth

Luke 1:26-45

Introduction

Announcing the birth of a child is exciting.

For the second time in a few months, God sent the angel Gabriel to announce the birth of a child.

What does this passage reveal about God?

What can we learn from Mary’s example?

I. God comes to the humble and lowly. Luke 1:26-33

Gabriel means “God is my hero”.

Gabriel is sent to:

- Galilee – not Judea.
- Nazareth – not Jerusalem.
- A young peasant girl named Mary.

Mary is betrothed to Joseph. In that day, betrothals took place when a girl was between 12-14 years of age.

“Greetings, you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you.”

- Greetings in Latin is Ave, as in “Ave Maria”.
- But the Latin Vulgate translation, “Hail Mary, full of grace” is too strong a rendering.
- Mary wasn’t chosen because she was the most holy woman on the planet. Mary was chosen by the grace of God to be the one who would give birth to the Son of God.

The angel tells her this child will be:

- A Son
- A Savior – Jesus
- The Son of the Most High – divine.
- A King whose Kingdom will never end.

Why did God choose to have his Son enter the world in this way?

God comes to the humble and lowly.
II. God does what no one else can do. Luke 1:34-38

“How will this be since I am a virgin?”

Isaiah the prophet wrote, “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

The angel answered, “the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

It will be a miracle birth.

Mary is given a sign, unasked for – Elizabeth, in her old age, is also going to give birth to a son.

“For nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary responds in faith. “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.”

Mary is an outstanding model of faith and discipleship. Mary is:

- Humble.
- Reflective.
- Believing.
- Submissive.

Are those qualities true of us?


Mary took the hint from Gabriel. She went to see Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped for joy in her womb.

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear.”

Two observations:

- In God’s eyes, the child in the womb is a person made in the image of God.
- Elizabeth’s response is remarkable. She recognizes that the great honor has gone to Mary, but there is no jealousy or bitterness – only joy and blessing and grace.

Conclusion

What do we learn about God from this text?

God comes to the humble and lowly.

God does what no one else can do – he works in impossible situations.

God brings joy – great joy – to those who believe Him.