

Friday, December 21st, 2012

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Scripture:

Luke 1: 26 - 38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God." 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Devotional:

In a few short verses Mary goes from asking how she will conceive the Son of the Most High in her virgin womb to "Here am I. . . let it be with me according to your word." Millions have speculated about how Mary came to grips with such momentous yet difficult news. The truth is we simply don't know what went through Mary's mind. None of us will ever be in a situation as weighty as Mary's. But when we are surprised by God's will, particularly when any way forward will be difficult, we find ourselves in a position similar to Mary's. "Really God? You want me to do what? It's impossible." As God's people, we are invited to take comfort in the angel Gabriel's words to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God," before we get to "Here I am."

Prayer:

Almighty God I stand in wonder that you have called me to be your child. Your words to Mary, "do not be afraid," are also your words to me as I face life in a broken world. Let me see afresh how Mary trusted you and how you used her to bring redemption to your world. When your will

crashes down on me, let my response be, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word.” In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.