

Tues., Dec. 20, 2011

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Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In 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. ²⁸And 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

God makes the impossible, possible. A young virgin woman, Mary, pledged to be married, is about to get a message from an unlikely source that she will literally bring the good news into the world.

Mary questions Gabriel about God's message, indicating that she is struggling to make sense of what God has planned for her life. The angel's words, "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." "make no sense in this young woman's mind.

Mary finally lets go and trusts God to make the impossible, possible. Then Mary says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Mary's YES changed the world, not only because of the son she bore, but because of the example she sets for Christians everywhere.

Saying YES when God's plan sounds crazy is, indeed, the foundation of faith.

In this season of profound love, take time to say YES to God's plan for you.

Prayer

This Advent season, as the world continues to prepare for Jesus' birth, let all believers, like Mary, be open to God's invitation, be brave enough to question and struggle, and be faithful enough to say YES to all that is possible in God. Amen.