

Adult Bible Study

Dec 20, 2020

Opening Prayer

If told that you or your parents were going to have a child this year, how would you react? You might need to consider someone else close to you as well.

Background: The Jewish people were anticipating the Messiah as a great warrior who would relieve them from oppression.

Luke 1:26=45

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to 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." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He 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. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The 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. **36** And 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. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** Then 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. **39** In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40** where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42** and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44** For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who be-

lieved that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Questions

1. What would have been hardest for Mary to comprehend: Being favored by God? Getting pregnant as a virgin? Who here child was going to be? How to explain this to others, especially Joseph?
2. How do you think Mary felt about giving birth to the Messiah?
3. If an angel were to reveal God's plan for your life, how would you react?
4. What truths are emphasized about Jesus in this passage?

Reflection

1. Was there an angel in your life that God sent to tell you about Jesus?
2. In what area of your life do you need to believe that "nothing is impossible with God"?
3. What keeps you from believing him?

Closing Prayer

Thoughts? Ideas? Questions? Rick Papin. macelff@gmail.com