

The Prince of Peace Luke 1:26-38



Luke 1:26-38

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."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

NKJV

Mary experienced an extreme change in her life. This change was not an easy one to make due to her circumstances.

- Mary was a teen ager
- Mary was a woman
- Mary was engaged
She already had a plan for her life.
Mary was subject to severe consequences if she agreed to this change.
 - Death
 - Divorce
 - Defamation
- Mary was given a great responsibility.
- Mary was given no assurance about her personal future.

When Mary's life changed, what gave Mary peace?

- She believed in the promises of God (verses 31-33)
 - The prophecy of the scripture
 - The prophecy of the angel
- She believed in the power of the Holy Spirit (verses 34-37)
 - To fulfill the prophecy
 - To fulfill her personal needs
- She believed in the purposes of God (verse 38)
 1. For Israel
 2. For her life
 - She saw God's purpose
 - She surrendered to God's purpose

Like Mary, one of the challenges that can create great anxiety in us is major change. These changes may be very positive, or they may be very painful.

When our life changes, to experience God's peace, we must...

- Believe in the promises of God
 - The prophecy of scripture

- The prophecy of God's messengers
- Believe in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - To fulfill the prophecy
 - To fulfill our personal needs
- Believe in the purposes of God
 1. For His church
 2. For our life
 - We must see God's purpose
 - We must surrender to God's purpose

There are three great promises of God that I want you to take away from Mary's story.

- When the Angel spoke to Mary, to comfort her he told her twice that she had found favor with God.

1. When you receive Jesus, you find favor with God. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The give someone favor means to show them special honor.

But to find favor with someone means they delight in you.

Since God is Holy and righteous, and we are sinners, it does not seem possible for God to delight in us.

- Sinners are rebels against God.
- Sinners are enemies of God.
- Sinners are objects of God's wrath.

Jesus died to change who we are to God. If you receive Jesus

- You are born of His Spirit
 - You are God's child
 - You are the object of His favor.
- God does not just give you favor, God delights in you.

Because of sin, Jesus is the only one that can make this change possible.

Recently, Sandra and I went and saw the movie Wonder. One of the story lines is a little boy who was born with a head and face deformity. What his

parents can see that very few other people can see is the inward beauty of their little boy.

When we receive Jesus, what God can see that very few other people can see is our inward beauty. He not only delights to show us favor but He delights in us because of the change that Jesus has made in us.

When you receive Jesus, you find favor with God.

- After Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, her life was found in Christ in her.

Mary had to redefine who she was. She was no longer, Mary, the peasant girl from Nazareth. She was Mary, the mother of Jesus.

To fulfill her mission, she had to let the life within her define her. It had to be her new identity. She forever would be known as the mother of Jesus.

2. [When you receive Jesus, your life is found in Jesus in you. \(Colossians 1:27\)](#)

To fulfill your mission, you need to redefine who you are. You are no longer a sinner that falls short of the glory of God. The life of Christ within you makes you a child of God. This must be your new identity and you must never ever forget where your life is found.

When you receive Jesus, your life is found in Christ in you.

- When Mary received Jesus, she became a disciple of Jesus. Even though she was His mother, because of who He was, she became His follower. She followed Him all the way to the cross.

3. [When you receive Jesus, you become a disciple of Jesus. \(Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20\)](#)

Your purpose is to follow Him all the way to the cross.

When you receive Jesus, you become a disciple of Jesus.