

Luke 1:26-38 NAU



Are You Open  
to God's Will  
for Your Life?

Saturday, 12/19 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 12/20 at 9:00

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2020

Christmas Eve at 6; Christmas Day at 10

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we are focusing on the message **from** God, **via** Gabriel, **to** Mary.

Today, as we consider God's purpose for Mary, *I challenge you to consider God's purpose for you!* Now **Luke 1:26-38...**

1. **Setting:** <sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
  - a. Sixth month: What does that mean? It was the *sixth month* of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptizer. Since John was six months older than Jesus, he began his ministry six months sooner; *God's timing is perfect!*
  - b. Gabriel: The Bible only names three angels: Michael, Gabriel, and Satan. **Michael** – *the very Son of God*,<sup>1</sup> **Gabriel** – *the greatest of the holy angels*, and **Satan** – *the greatest of the evil angels*. God sent Gabriel – *the greatest holy angel*, to bring a **great message** to Mary!

<sup>1</sup> See Daniel 10:13; 10:21; 12:1; Jude 1:9; Rev. 12:7

- c. Mary was a virgin: Gabriel was sent to a woman named Mary who **was a virgin – had never been with a man**, **was engaged – legally bound to Joseph**, and **was a descendant of David – through his son Nathan**.
2. **Greeting**: <sup>28</sup> **And coming in** [into the house], **he** [Gabriel] **said to her**, “Greetings, favored one [literally, having been favored one]! **The Lord is with you.**” <sup>29</sup> **But she was very perplexed** [confused] **at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation** [greeting] **this was**.
- a. Favored one: Of all the women in the whole world, **God chose Mary to be the person through whom His Son would come into the world and put on human flesh. God’s choice of Mary is what made her favored, not something about Mary that moved God to choose her!**
- b. Mary was an ordinary believer: She knew of her own sin and helplessness; however, by God’s grace, *she had faith in the Promised Messiah!* Therefore, when Gabriel indicated that she had been favored by God, *she was confused and may have been thinking: Why me? Well, what about me...? What about you...?*
3. **Amazing News**: <sup>30</sup> **The angel said to her**, “**Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.**” <sup>31</sup> **“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.**” <sup>32</sup> **“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God** [God the Father] **will give Him the throne of His father David;** <sup>33</sup> **and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”**
- a. The fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14: “**...a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel** [God with us]. Mary was that virgin; by God’s

power she did conceive and bear a son; and Mary's Son  
‡is great, ‡is named Jesus, and ‡is the very Son of God!

- b. His father David: Well, not actually his father, *but his ever, ever, ever SO GREAT grandfather*. Look at [Matthew 1 \(6-16\)](#) to trace the genealogy of Jesus from *David to Joseph* – who was the LEGAL father of Jesus. For the ACTUAL connection to David, look at [Luke 3 \(23-31\)](#) to trace the genealogy of Mary back to David.
  - i. David > Solomon > . . . . . Joseph
  - ii. David > Nathan > . . . . . Mary
- c. The house of Jacob: Thus the 12 sons of Jacob, aka Israel, eventually became the nation of Israel.
- d. His kingdom will have no end: Even now, Jesus is at the right hand of God, *reigning over all things!*
- e. God will make all of it happen: **Because of God's great plan and power**: ‡Mary will conceive, ‡Mary's child will be great, ‡He will be called God's Son, ‡He will be the King of the Jews, ‡He will reign over God's Kingdom, and ‡His reign will never end! God said it; *then God did it!*

4. **Wanting to Understand**: <sup>34</sup> **Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"** <sup>35</sup> **The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.** // Mary did NOT doubt Gabriel; *she simply wanted to understand how she – being a virgin – could become pregnant*. We don't know the details, *but we confess*: He, **the very Son of God, "was incarnate [embodied in human flesh] by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man"** (Nicene Creed).

5. **Assurance:** <sup>36</sup> “And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- Elizabeth: For all of her potential child-bearing years, *she could NOT become pregnant*; however, **because God can do anything**, *she was now six months along!*
  - Countless fulfilled promises: Ponder them; *God is able!*
6. **Acceptance:** <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold [I am], the bonds slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.
- God’s plan and Mary’s “Yes”: Mary understood that **God was her Lord** and **she was His bonds slave**; therefore, it was a no-brainer, she said, “Yes!”
  - Ephesians 2:10 and our response: **God has saved us by grace through faith**; therefore, “...we are [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Eph. 2:10 NAU). When we do those pre-planned good works, **those works will be BEST for us and others – both now and forever!** So what are those good works – for you, for me? **God will make them known to us when we** ♣ desire to know them, ♣ spend thoughtful time in the Bible, ♣ seek to know them thru prayer, and ♣ seek the advice of mature believers!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, You asked, and Mary said, “Yes!” As You are now asking us, *so move us to trust You as the LORD*, and gladly say, “Yes!” to Your plan – *for each of us!*

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