

God's Intentional Plan

Luke 1:26-38

1. God Humbled Himself

God's announcement given to Mary by angel Gabriel emphasized the humble nature of Jesus' birth; making the announcement in Nazareth, located in a not ideal location for one sent from God (John 7:41), and to Mary who is a simple Jewish peasant with no social standing.

Jesus' birth and ministry revealed being humble in nature. God calls us to have the same humble mindset as Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Question:

- When you take the time to reflect on God humbling Himself so we can experience salvation, do you see your own life as insignificant or important in God's plan? Why?

2. God Completes His Promises

God brought comfort to Mary through angel Gabriel's reminder that the messianic prophecies will be completed through Jesus, as no word from God will ever fail.

Our God is the promise keeping God as no word from God will ever fail. We can have complete trust in God and in His plans.

Question:

- No word or promise of God will be impossible as the Word of God will never fail. In what ways has God's Word and/or His promises continue to have your complete trust?
- How can you trust God when His plans for your life are different from what you expected?

3. God's Grace Empowers Those Willing

Mary is honored by God not because of her own merit or because she has done anything. She was chosen because God displayed His grace upon her.

God graciously chooses undeserving people as Jesus' disciples and uses the faith that they possess to fulfill His plan of salvation; to make mature and multiplying disciples.

Question:

- Despite the seeming impossibility of the Angel's message, even with the possible cost that Mary experienced, she demonstrated her faith and trust in God by her acceptance of God's invitation.
 - a) Do I say "yes" to God in the small, everyday situations of my life?
 - b) When the yes is hard, do I lean on God for the grace to respond to His call?
 - c) Where are the places I have difficulty saying yes to God?