

The Conception of Christ

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was dispatched to earth with two messages: One to an elderly priest named Zacharias. The other to a young virgin peasant named Mary. Both were prophetic birth announcements... Both would be miracle births... Both would involve the births of two baby boys.

One would be John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. The other would be his cousin, Jesus, the Messiah Himself.

In this message I want us to consider Gabriel's announcement to Mary. This announcement would affect the world forever.

I. **The SALUTATION to Mary** (vs. 26-30).

- There is a tendency among Baptists and Protestants to down play the role of Mary. But, let's face it: The Bible says she was (v. 28). I'm talking about the Mary of the Bible—Not the Mary of Roman Catholicism. The Mary of the Bible was blessed women, but women (v. 42).
 - Mary is no mediator between God and man. We don't pray to her when we can go directly to God. Mary was a sinner (cf. 2:22-24; Lev. 12:2-8) and needed a Savior like all of us (see 1:47).
 - She was probably about 16 years old and already espoused / engaged to Joseph.
- A. Mary's **DOMAIN** (v. 26). The only thing good about Nazareth was the presence of Jesus there for about 30 years. Likewise, any goodness we have is due to Jesus' presence in our lives.
- B. Mary's **DEVOTION**— She was attentive to the message of God. She knew the Scriptures quoting the O.T. several times in her praise (vs. 46-55).
- C. Mary's **DIGNITY** (Luke 1:27-28). Called a virgin twice. [30% - 40% teen girls lose their virginity before 17 years old.]
1. Mary remained chaste in a corrupt city. Nazareth was known for it's wickedness/promiscuity. "
?" (Las Vegas / Hollywood)

2. Mary and Joseph refused to allow their environment to define who they were. Some use their environment as excuse for sin in their life. You can live a morally pure life in today's immoral society. You can rise above your circumstances.

ILLUS: Boiling a carrot... egg... ground coffee in water. The hard carrot was softened by it's environment. The egg was hardened. However, the coffee changed it's environment into a rich and flavorful beverage.

D. Mary's **DILEMMA** (v. 34).

- Her life is suddenly turned upside down.
1. Her FAVOR. Mary was given the greatest honor ever afforded to a woman—To be the mother of the Savior of the world.
 2. Her FEAR. With that honor came a tremendous social stigma—That of being an unwed mother.
 - Mary is called to bear shame and suffer reproach for the glory of God (cf. Acts 5:41; 1Tim. 4:10; Heb. 13:13).

II. **The SON of Mary** (vs. 31-37).

A. His SUPERNATURAL conception (v. 31—
— cf. vs. 34-35).

1. Jesus would have a human mother without a human father. No problem for God who created the genetic code in the first place (v. 37). Gabriel should know since he witnessed first hand God creat the universe out of nothing!
 - God made Adam without a man or woman involved.
 - God made Eve out with only a man involved.
 - God can make a person naturally with both a woman and man involved.
 - God can make a Man using a woman, without a man involved.
2. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Ghost (Mt. 1:20). He is the "God-Man"— and .
3. A great mystery (1 Tim. 3:16; John 1:14).

- B. The SIGNIFICANCE of His name (v. 31—).
1. Compound word: “**JE**” = abbreviation for Jehovah. “**SUS**” = abbreviation for Savior. Jehovah Saves! (Mt. 1:21; Acts 4:12).
 2. There has never been a name like the name of Jesus—
Philippians 2:9-11:
 ,
 :
 ,
 ;
 ,
 .”
 3. Bill Gaither was right when he wrote the song,
 .”

- C. The SPLENDOR of His fame (v. 32— **great,**).
- He is great in His **position** (prophet, priest, King)... **power**... **performance**.
 - Time is reckoned by His birth (B.C. / A.D.)
 - More books written about Him than any other man.
 - More songs are sung about Him than any other man.

- D. The SITTING on the throne (v. 32—).
- ➔ Jesus has not sat there, . But just as the first part of Gabriel’s annunciation is true, so will the second part!
- E. The SCOPE of His reign (v. 33- boundless—extends into eternity).

III. The SUBMISSION of Mary (vs. 38—"

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- ➔ As wonderful as the announcement was, nothing would have ever happened, without Mary’s humble submission.
- A. It was IMMEDIATE submission.
1. She didn’t ask for more time to think about it.
 2. She didn’t try to negotiate the timing.
 3. There is no advantage to delaying submission to God’s will.

- B. It was **INCLUSIVE** – She completely gave herself over to God.
1. = **bond-slave**—One devoted to the will of their master. She yielded the rights of her life to the Lord.
 2. = Master/Boss.
 - She offered her body to be used of the Lord for His purposes (Rom. 12:1).
 - Willing to lose her reputation.
 - Willing to suffer misunderstanding.
 - Willing to jeopardize her marriage to Joseph.
 - All for the joy of knowing she was being used of God.

SUMMATION: The 17th century German poet, Angelus Silesius, said, "If Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times, and never born in you, you would remain forever lost." As in the song by Phillips Brooks, we must say:

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in;

1. Are you saved? Have you been born again?
2. Are you morally pure? Teenager, will you be a pure bride at the marriage altar? Mom, do your children know you are a virtuous woman?
3. Have you placed yourself at the Lord's disposal to be used as a clean vessel in service for Him?

Our joy is not only to celebrate Christmas, but to communicate the message Christmas. But, you cannot effectively communicate Christmas until you have the Christ of Christmas living in your heart.