

Heaven Sent: Mary's First Christmas

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – November 27, 2022

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

What can we learn from Mary's faith?

1. **FAITH BEGINS WITH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Luke 1:46-47 (Mary speaking to Elizabeth)

46 ... Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Isaiah 43:1

... this is what the Lord says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

2. **FAITH PLEASES GOD**

Luke 1:28, 30

28 "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 30 "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God."

3. **FAITH FOCUSES ON GOD'S KINGDOM OVER SELF**

Luke 1:31-33

31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

4. **FAITH LEADS TO HUMBLE OBEDIENCE**

Luke 1:38

I am the Lord's servant... May it be to me as you have said.

Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

James 2:26

Faith without deeds is dead.