

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
James M. Duncan, Pastor

DECEMBER 8, 2019

SERIES: PREPARE HIM ROOM

“Magnifying the Saviour”

Luke 1:26-50

Video - “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

This song comes from a poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and from some difficult and discouraging events that had happened. As the bells ring louder, the words go deeper into his soul until finally he says, “*God is not dead, nor does He sleep...the wrong shall fail, the right prevail...with peace on earth, good will to men.*”

I especially like this line, “*Like the angels singing, open your heart and hear them.*”

I pray we would open our hearts so we can hear what God is saying.

Last Sunday from the message: “**Breaking the Silence**” we learned from **Luke 1:1-4** that our faith must be built on facts, not feelings. It’s not a fable that Jesus was born in the stable. In this time of fake news, horrible hoaxes, and mixed up misunderstandings, **we can trust what the Bible says because it’s historical, verifiable, orderly and certain.**

If we want to have a **Merry Christmas**, we must first understand **Mary’s Christmas**. Please look with me at **Luke 1**. We’ll see how God moves Mary through a **process** to help her make **progress**.

Here’s what we’ll learn today: God moves us through a specific process so we can make spiritual progress.

I. THE FACTS OF MARY’S LIFE Vs. 26-27

V-26 “*In the sixth month...*” refers to Elizabeth being six months pregnant with John the Baptist. The town of Nazareth was small and the womb carrying the greatest treasure of all was not that of a **princess** but of a **young peasant virgin Verse 27.**

II. THE FEAR IN MARY’S HEART Vs. 28-30

As we continue the narrative in **verses 28-30**, Mary receives a birth announcement that will rock her peaceful plans and change the trajectory of human history.

This salutation does not mean that Mary is so full of grace she can forever bestow grace on others. The context here is that because the Lord is

with her, she is favored. While she has received grace, she is not the dispenser of grace. No matter how many times someone may pray, “Hail Mary, full of grace,” she cannot give grace to anyone.

We must resist giving **Mary titles** that she herself would reject. She is not our “**co-redeemer**” or “**mediator**” or “**The Queen of Heaven.**” By the way, if you hear someone mention the “Immaculate Conception,” it is not referring to the conception of Jesus but to the unbiblical belief that Mary herself was sinless from the moment of her conception. **V-29** - Mary was unsettled because she did not think of herself as highly favored.

III. FASCINATION IN MARY’S MIND - Vs. 31-34

Though she is a virgin, she will become pregnant. I wonder if she stopped breathing at this point. Have you noticed the name of **Jesus (v-31)** is given to Mary even before she is pregnant? The incarnation happened so the crucifixion could take place. Bethlehem’s baby only makes sense in light of Calvary’s crucified Savior. Then Mary is told what her Son will be like: **V-32** - He will be great. He will be the Son of the Most High and He will be given the throne of David. When we come to **verse 34**, we get the sense can’t process any more data and so she verbalizes a question that has now hit a crescendo: “*How can this be, since I do not know a man?*”

IV. THE FAITH OF MARY’S WILL V-35

Gabriel’s answer makes it clear that the Holy Spirit will bring about this wonder in Mary’s womb.

The word “**overshadow**” was used of the Shekinah glory in the Old Testament. **Verse 35** continues, and we would say it like this:

Because He is a **man**, He is our substitute

Because He is **holy**, He is the sinless sacrifice

Because He is the Son of **God**, He is sovereign

After pointing Mary to the miracle of Elizabeth’s pregnancy **V-36**, in **verse 37** we hear a statement that each one of us should memorize: “**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**” Some of you are in an impossible situation right now. Mary’s Christmas demonstrates what God can do...

Are you ready to surrender to the Savior just like Mary did when she said, “*Let it be to me according to your word?*” **V-38**

Mary exhibited two essential ingredients of faith - **Submissive Servanthood and Unconditional Obedience.**

IV. THE FOCUS OF MARY’S WORDS Vs.46-55

We won’t take the time to read all of Mary’s magnificent song in **verses 46-55**, but let me point out her words of worship lead her to witness.