

26In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29**Confused and disturbed**, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30"**Don't be afraid, Mary**," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" 34Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." 35The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. 37**For nothing is impossible with God.**" 38Mary responded, "**I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.**" And then the angel left her.

Promise of God:

- Changed to Matthew 2:1-12 – See bottom of sheet

Connect today with the people:

Christmas is about believing the impossible can happen. What does that look like for you?

Mary had nothing. She is looking to God to do something good.

- Mary was confused to hear she was blessed. She was also afraid (angel had to reassure her)
- (Your circumstances may need an overhaul) Mary had many reasons to believe she was not...
 - o Consider our own current lacks
 - o Israel was not even a country. Loss of identity and without hope

Your calling is probably impossible – Mary's calling was impossible.

- We are often thinking in the **logical** - When God moves, he does things in ways beyond what we may have imagined, in His perfect timing
- Our calling is probably **not practical** - A mechanical engineering student becoming an engineer - Gets sufficient income to feel comfortable to get married - Has children - Influences many other mechanical engineers - But it is too simple and logical. Instead, your calling would be impossible, something only God can do.
- **What you have** is enough – Mary had nothing, and that was enough to be a woman, as God created you!
- If you cannot believe "**nothing is impossible**" - You will struggle with the rest of the Bible
- I would challenge, maybe your calling is to be a small group leader, who cares deeply for the few. That's harder than it sounds.
 - o Jesus had the most rambunctious disciples... they doubted him, did things without thinking ... probably the same that we see today, such as coming late, not coming at all, non committal, etc. Maybe even to kill and betray you.. and steal from you! You need the power of God to love such people! And that's "impossible" in our own strength.

Accepting God's great will for us

- Instead of desires that the world teaches us (or popularity, etc)
- Let the impossible done in me – and Through – "**I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true**" (remember your humble starts)

- Salvation was impossible - Keeping the law was becoming burdensome and people did not have a deep relationship with God as He intended in Genesis creation
- Jesus came so that we may become children of God. John 3:16, and He now walks with us in our lives.. going through before us to clear the path and provide, going behind us to protect us. Walking with us to guide us through our many confusion.

Worship belongs to God

- Let's bow
- blessing of impossible to happen
- Revealing of destinies

Smart and strong people – to bow and worship the Lord.

We have to get it right. When God makes us many, will we maintain our humble beginnings?

<p>Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)</p> <p>1Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ... 9After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.</p>	<p>Magis, wisemen, kings – educated, qualified people</p> <p>They recognized that a king is born – that a star would direct them (they got some guidance that the star would direct them, and that star led them to Herod)</p> <p>They came to worship Jesus.</p> <p>They continued to follow the star.</p> <p>They were exceeding joyful. (Not on the great things they accomplished, but what God was doing).</p> <p>They fell down and worshipped him.</p> <p>Gold, frankincense, and a burial oil (expensive things)</p>
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The “wise” people rejoiced in what God was doing. They gave up their time and money to give worship to God. They recognized their abilities, knowledge, and experiences ought to be submitted before the king of kings. (Even though they may be kings).

Can we who are wise do the same?