**Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25**

**Introduction**

* Last week we began our series **The Full Picture of Christmas.**
* We discussed the Old Testament prophecy and seen how the conception, character, and conquest of the Messiah were all foretold centuries before Christ was born.
* This morning we are going to fast-forward 700 years or so and look at **The Birth Announcement.**
* What is being announced is that the prophecies we studied last, we are about to be fulfilled.
* We will look at Mary’s trust and Joseph’s obedience as the dealt with the breaking news.

**Luke 1:26-38**

26In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32He 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, 33and 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?" 35The 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. 36Even 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. 37For 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.

* **V. 26** – The “sixth month” refers to Elizabeth’s pregnancy from **Luke 1:24-25** as we see in v. 36.
* Here we see the angel Gabriel mentioned. He also announced the birth of Elizabeth’s son to Zachariah earlier in Luke.
* Gabriel is also mentioned in **Daniel 8:15-17; 9:21.** Each time he appeared he brought important messages from God.
* **V. 27 –** We see that the word “virgin” is used here. That is the Greek word *parthenos*.
	+ In **Isaiah 7:14** last week we mentioned that the Hebrew word *almah* used for “virgin” in that verse was translated to *parthenos* when the Old Testament was translated into Greek.
	+ This is the word that we see throughout the Greek New Testament to refer to young women who have never had sexual intercourse. (**Matthew 25:1, 7, 11; Acts 21:9**)
* Mary was “pledged” to be married to Joseph. This has also be translated “betrothed” or “espoused.”
* Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married in their day, even the engagement period was legally binding.
* There was no intercourse during this period and they still lived separately. It was usually about a year long.
* **Vv. 28-20 –** Here we see Gabriel addressing Mary, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”
* It says that, “Mary was greatly troubled at his words.” She was confused and perplexed. Wouldn’t you be?!
* She did not understand what Gabriel was telling her as far as her being “highly favored.”
* Obviously Mary had to have favor with God to be chosen to carry the Messiah.
* **Vv. 31-33 –** He goes on to explain to her that she will give birth to a son and that she was to name him Jesus
* Mary is told that her son will “be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”
* He will reign on David’s throne forever. (**Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27**)
* **Vv. 34-35** – Rightly Mary asks “How will this be sin I am a virgin?”
* Gabriel answered that “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”
* All of this would happen so that Jesus would be called “the Son of God.”
* **Vv.36-37** – Gabriel mentioned Mary’s cousin Elizabeth’s miraculous pregnancy as she was said to be barren but was 6 months pregnant.
* **“For nothing is impossible with God.”**
* **V. 38 –** Mary’s response to all of this is remarkable, she said, “"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.”
* Mary should not be revered to the point of elevating her to “godly” status, however she clearly is someone that we should respect and admire.
* As a young woman, she had already lived such a life that God saw fit for her to be the one to birth the Messiah.
* Then we see her in this verse to trust God in a remarkable way. She knew her story wouldn’t be believed by others possibly and that raising such a child would be a monumental task, however she trusted God to help her though it all.

**Matthew 1:18-25**

18This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

24When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

* **Vv. 18-19** – Remember, the engagement period was legally binding and so they would have to be divorced.
* Joseph could have chosen to publicly humiliate Mary, but because he “was a righteous man” he chose to do it quietly.
* **Vv. 20-21** – We see in **v. 20** that Joseph “considered this” which means that he actually put thought into it.
* Then “an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.” He explained to Joseph that the child Mary was carrying was from the Holy Spirit, would be a son, and that his name was to be Jesus because he would “save his people from their sins.”
* **Vv. 22-23** – Everything that is about to happen was to fulfill the passages in Isiah that we referenced last week.
* **Vv. 24-25** – When Joseph woke up from his dream, he obeyed God.
* He took Mary home as his wife and did not divorce her.
* He did not consummate the marriage until after she gave birth and they named the child Jesus.
* We know very little about Joseph because he is not mentioned much after this.
* However, what we do know, is that he was a man of tremendous righteousness and obedience.
* We can learn so much from Mary and Joseph when it comes to trusting and obeying our heavenly Father.

**Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study**

Romans 6:1-14