

Son of God, Son of Mary
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Luke 1:26-56

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."
(Luke 1:38, ESV)

Introduction

Perhaps the most amazing part of the Christmas story to me is the faith response of Mary who beyond all reason accepted the word of the LORD and submitted herself—body, soul and spirit—to the plans and purposes of God. While some may think that Mary did nothing requiring much faith or courage, when we consider that a) sexual sin was a crime punishable by death in her day, b) she had no assurance that Joseph would not reject her, and c) it's not likely that she had read or knew of the prophecies from Isaiah that had outlined what was happening in her life, the faith of this young woman is undeniable.

- 1. The angelic messenger sent to the young virgin. (Luke 1:26-33)**
 - a) The prophecies of a virgin birth and the arrival of the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-7).
 - b) God's good, perfect and pleasing will (Romans 12:2).
- 2. What is God's good, perfect and pleasing will for you? (Luke 1:34-38)**
 - a) "How will this be, since I am...?"
 - b) "Nothing will be impossible with God."
- 3. A faith which works by love. (Luke 1:39-56)**
 - a) God provides several kinds of evidence to help Mary believe the impossible.
 - b) "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." (Romans 10:8-17)

Conclusion

In a particularly special way, the miraculous conception in Mary's womb through the power of the Holy Spirit is actually something that God wants to do in the lives of everyone who believes and yields themselves to God. Christmas does not just commemorate when our Savior was born, but when we were given a living example of what happens when someone trusts God with everything, everywhere, every one for all time. While it was surely difficult to know what would happen, to watch her son's rejection, betrayal and crucifixion, when Christ was born to her, and then when the resurrected Christ was revealed, there may have never been a greater vindication.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read the prophecies of Isaiah 7:10-17 & 9:1-7. Would you have believed them to be about your life if you were Mary? Why or why not?
- 2) Read Luke 1:34-38. How did God help Mary to believe? How does He help you?
- 3) Ephesians 2:8-10 says that we are God's workmanship: what is God doing in your life?

122417cdg@hch