



Sermon Series: Bah Humbug

Sermon Title: Tis the Season

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Speaker: Reid Robinette



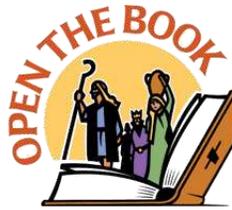
Before your group study begins, share your first impressions on the message.

Did the message raise any particular questions?

*IF YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE SUNDAY SERVICE, WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE SERMON AT
<http://www.crossroads140.com/sermons/>*



Summary –The message of Christmas that Mary received changed her life forever. When we hear the truth of the message and respond in faith our lives will be forever changed.



Each week you will open the Bible and explore the Scripture for the week. While you're there, take a look at the verses that surround your text for the week. As you read, you might want to make a list of observations. Try to put yourself in each of the character's shoes. Make a list of questions you may not have answers to. Ask God what He may be trying to teach you.

READ LUKE 1:26-38

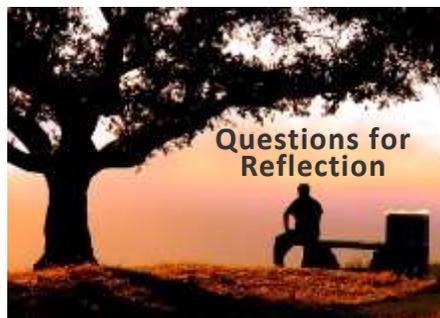
My first impression of the passage:

Observations:

Scripture surrounding your text-

Characters (Who's listening? Who's in the story?) / Setting / Culture-

My Questions:



1. What do you think Mary meant when she asked, "how will this be?"

2. Why is who the message was to (Mary) just as revealing as what the message was?



1. How can you hear the message with renewed ears?



Close your group time in prayer, asking God to strengthen our faith and our courage to obey Him. Thank Him for sending Jesus and for the salvation available through Him. Pray that God will open our eyes to Jesus' identity and His work in our lives through this study.

Go deeper

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Have a volunteer read Luke 1:26-30.

What qualities of God's character are on display in His choice of Mary?

In the angel's opening statement to Mary, he referred to her as "favored" (v. 28), and in verse 30, he added that it was God with whom she had found favor. Like the righteousness accredited to Abraham, God's favor was evidence of His grace in Mary's life.

Have a volunteer read Luke 1:31-38.

What do we learn about the Messiah, the promised child, from the angel's comments to Mary in verses 31-33?

Read aloud some of the messianic prophecies from 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 11:1-5; and Psalm 89:3-4. Discuss what these prophecies reveal about the Messiah's identity and function, and discuss the importance of Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilling these prophecies.

What are the implications of these pronouncements for you and me?

Read verse 34 again. How does Mary's reaction to the angel's news compare with Sarah's reaction in Genesis 18:12-15?

Knowing God's purpose and submitting to that purpose are two different matters. Mary was at that crossroads of decision where she had to submit or reject. Her response was forthright—she referred to herself as God's servant, or slave. Mary expressed complete submission to God as His will for her life. Mary's faith was a ready faith that not only accepted God's will, but agreed wholeheartedly with what God was about to accomplish. Thus as Christians, we are to make ourselves available to serve God completely.

COMMENTARY

1:26-27. The announcement of Jesus' birth carried the authority of God. It came in the sixth month, a reference to the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist. The term virgin emphasized the purity associated with a young, unmarried woman. Although engaged to a man named Joseph, Mary did not yet live with Joseph. In first-century Jewish culture, engagement (or betrothal) bound them together legally as husband and wife. The wedding and consummation of the marriage, however, followed at a later time. Luke identified Mary's husband, Joseph, as a member of the house of David. The Jews knew from the Scriptures that the future Messiah would be a descendant of the great King David. This fact supported the identification of Jesus as King. The Child to be born, then, would be identified with the lineage through which the Messiah had been promised (see Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-5).

1:28-30. Mary was favored because the Lord set His undeserved grace upon her, not because she had earned good standing. Understandably, she was deeply troubled (Gk diatarasso; "confused, perplexed") by Gabriel's visit and greeting, wondering how she had come to receive such an honor. Gabriel's admonishment that Mary not be afraid was the same thing he said to Zechariah (v. 13).

1:31-33. Mary's conception would be miraculous because she was still a virgin (v. 34). The name Jesus is equivalent to the Hebrew Yeshua (Joshua), meaning "the Lord is salvation." In Genesis 14:18, God is referred to as "God Most High." Humanly speaking, Jesus' lineage would be traced legitimately through the royal family of David because Joseph, Jesus' adoptive father, was a descendant of David. This made Jesus heir to David's throne according to God's eternal covenant (see 2 Sam. 7:13,16).

1:34-35. The difference between Mary's response (how can this be) and Zechariah's (v. 18) is that Mary asked her question not from unbelief but from puzzlement (v. 38; see note at v. 20). The answer to Mary's question about how she could get pregnant without being intimate with a man is that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and cause her to conceive. Because the

Holy Spirit was the agent of conception, the child (the holy One; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15) would be the Son of God.

1:36-38. If ever Mary was tempted to doubt God's promise to her, she could recall Gabriel's words that nothing will be impossible with God, as had been shown in the lives of Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 18:14). Mary's response is a classic model of humble commitment (I am the Lord's slave) and willing obedience (may it be done to me according to your word).



*There are free Go Deeper Devotionals available at our Resource Center. The Go Deeper Devotionals will take you through the Bible over a period of three years. There is a commentary for every chapter of the Bible. Reading the commentary will give you some background before reading the scripture text. We encourage you to use the devotionals. Grab as many months as you wish. Share them with your friends, neighbors. Dive into God's word. **Psalm 119:105 - You're word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.***