

# The Gift

◆◆◆ OF ◆◆◆  
COMPASSION

December 20, 2020

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## Experiencing God's Compassion Luke 1:26-56

### God's compassion may be perplexing to us Luke 1:26-30

Luke 1:29 – *“But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.”*

- Perplexed
  - A feeling of grief and loss - John 11:33
  - A fear of the unknown - Matthew 14:26
  - God's ways are not our ways - Romans 11:33
- Isaiah 41:10 – “Do not fear for I am with you, do not anxiously look about for I am your God.”
- Mary is perplexed but she keeps pondering. Keep seeking when life doesn't seem to make sense.

### In God's compassion, we live in His grace to fulfill His greater plans Luke 1:31-33

Luke 1:31 – *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.”*

- Isaiah 7:14 (prophesied 700 years earlier) - “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”
- God calls Mary to enter into this calling and she won't be able to avoid suffering herself. This is God's compassion and Mary's compassion intertwining.
- God's compassion for Mary lifts up Jesus (vs. 32-33)
  - He will be great
  - He is God Himself
  - He will rule this world forever
  - Mary has a significant role in God's plan
- You have a significant role in God's plan for the gospel
- You have an opportunity to say yes to God's plan for a child for you who wasn't in your plans - visit the Compassion booth today or go to [calvarylife.org/compassion](http://calvarylife.org/compassion)

### In God's compassion, we succeed only by His miraculous power Luke 1:34-37

Luke 1:37 – *“For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

- God's compassion for Mary gave her a friend to be “in this together” in Elizabeth.
- God's compassion for Mary is shown in His power, not her own.

### In God's compassion, we are richly blessed as we submit to Him Luke 1:38

Luke 1:38 – *“And Mary said, ‘Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.’”*

- Mary's submission to God is our example to follow.
- Our prayer in response: “Lord, I submit to my need for your compassion, your grace, and your power for the forgiveness of my sin and for the ability to live each day for you.”

# DIGGING DEEPER Luke 1:26-56

## 1 Preparation

If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. ***"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."***

## 2 Read the Text:

Read Luke 1:26-56 a few times until you have a clear understanding of what the passage is saying.

## 3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, how have I experienced your compassion in the past? In my suffering, trials, and seasons of joy? And, Lord, how am I experiencing your compassion now?"
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

## 4 Praise + Worship

Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time.

**Song Recommendation: "God With Us" by All Sons & Daughters**

## 5 Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart and mind now.

## 6 Blessing

May you know that the "Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" - **Isaiah 30:18**

**Your Response Today:** Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting **"Card"** to **970-00**

**Discover More:** Learn about ways you can connect to life at Calvary by subscribing to weekly pastoral updates, growing in community through a LifeGroup, finding resources to give or receive care and help through this season, and discovering ways you can give to help make a difference locally and globally at **CalvaryLife.org**