

HARK



FROM THE MOUTHS OF ANGELS

December 22, 2019
Pastor Eric Wakeling

AN ANGEL'S MESSAGE FOR YOU LUKE 1:26-38

The Lord is with you and favors you. Luke 1:26-29

"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28

- Mary is favored because God has a great calling for her life. You have a great calling too!
- Mary's identity is fully found in the presence of God with her. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit of God is with you too!
- The angel, Gabriel, knows Mary's name. She is known personally by God and so are you!

Do not be afraid, Jesus is coming. Luke 1:30-34

"Do not be afraid, Mary...you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31

- What are you afraid of?
- The presence of Jesus removes all of our fear.
- Who is Jesus to Gabriel?
 - Great; Son of the Most High; Sits on the throne; Reigns over Israel forever; His kingdom has no end; the Son of God
 - He will save His people from their sins

Anything is possible with God! Luke 1:35-38

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

- It's easy for us, like Mary, to get focused on the wrong things. We clearly see the reasons why a miracle can't happen when God wants to do something beyond our imaginations.
- God, through Gabriel, tells Mary something beyond belief will happen and He gives evidence and assurance of why it will happen - vs. 36. The stories of God at work bolster our belief.
- Power of the most high will "overshadow" you.
 - *'episkiazei'* - cast a shadow, envelope with a cloud. *'chuppah'* - the glory and presence of God covering the people of Israel like a canopy throughout the Old Testament.

Response: As we grow in our trust in God we say the words of Mary:
"May it be done to me according to your word."

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

1. How do you really feel about an angel appearing to you or other supernatural events?
Do they excite you or frighten you? Or both?
2. What are you really afraid of in this world? Be honest about the fears you have.
How has God met you in these fears? How do you hope for God to meet you in these fears today?
3. Share a story of God at work in your life or a story you have heard about God at work in other's lives.
Let those stories encourage you that anything is possible with God.

NEXT STEPS:

GROW IN COMMUNITY: Following Jesus is an ongoing journey of growth, and we grow best in community as we learn to follow His word and ways together. Take a next step and explore opportunities to grow in your faith by picking up the new Winter/Spring 2020 Groups & Gatherings guide in the Lobby or visit calvarylife.org/group

SHARE AN INVITATION: Help spread the good news this Christmas about the hope, peace, joy, and love we find in Jesus. Who are you praying for and reaching out to invite to the Sunday services and special events coming up at Calvary? Discover more about what's happening and follow our daily Advent Devotional at SantaAnaChristmas.com

SERVE THIS CHRISTMAS: Help create a warm and welcoming presence for our guests by serving as a greeter at our Christmas Eve Candlelight services on December 23 or 24. Contact Robert Carter at rcarter@calvarylife.org for details or visit us at Connection Point in the Lobby today.