

Luke 1:26-38

I. The Situation

- a. Mary betrothed (part of engagement process) to a man named Joseph
- b. Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel
- c. Nazareth in Galilee—It's an obscure region in an obscure country within the mighty Roman empire; hardly the place where a history changing event would happen

II. The Characters

- a. Mary—from humble, agrarian roots; probably a young teenager; a virgin
- b. Joseph—her 'fiancé'; descendent of David; was a 'just man' (*Matt. 1:19*)
- c. Gabriel—an angel from God; previously visited Zechariah about John's birth

III. The Encounter

- a. Mary is troubled; there is a sense of fear in encountering an angel
- b. Gabriel twice mentions she has found favor with God; reassures her
 - i. God's grace removes all fear
- c. She is told she will bear a child and is to name him Jesus
 - i. He will be called great and Son of the Most High
 - ii. He will hold the throne of his ancestor David
 - iii. He will reign over the house of Jacob (term for Israel, or God's people)
 - iv. His kingdom will have no end
- d. Mary cannot seem to get past the statement that she's going to get pregnant

IV. The Immaculate Conception (c.f. *Isaiah 7:14*)

- a. Gabriel makes clear this is from God and it's going to be something special
- b. Conceived by the Holy Spirit; he will be called holy
- c. Elizabeth, her much older relative also gets pregnant
- d. V. 37—For nothing is impossible with God

V. Mary's Response

- a. A bold act of faith; consider the scandal
- b. Subject to ridicule, doubt, divorce, even possible stoning
- c. A humble willingness to be used by God; intentional contrast to Zechariah (*Luke 1:18-20*)

VI. So what?

- a. God often chooses the insignificant to do His significant work. It's about God's greatness, not ours (c.f. *2 Corinthians 4:7*)
- b. Accepting God's plan may mean trusting him through major challenges. Mary was willing, are you?