

**MY BABY! MY SAVIOR!****Luke 1:26-56****(Read Luke 1:26-56)**

**Intro:** A young lady who was engaged but had never been kissed let alone experienced sexual intercourse was pregnant. The world would look at that and say, “Yeah, right!” And the world did. Mary’s “story” may have been referenced in the taunts of religious leaders who told Jesus “*We were not born of sexual immorality.*” John 8:41 over thirty years later. It was hard to believe – unless you believe what the angel told Mary when he said, “*For nothing will be impossible with God.*” Luke 1:37.

And that’s the truth. FB Meyer writes, “*The narrative is artlessly simple and natural and is its own complete vindication. No human genius could have invented it. Compare it, for instance, with all the ornate and fantastic pictures of the Annunciation by the great masters! That children and wise men alike appreciate this story bespeaks its humaneness and its divineness.*”

Commentator Donald G. Miller, adds this, “*The means by which the birth of Jesus is to be accomplished is described with exquisite spiritual insight. There is no hint whatsoever of any physical act. There is no procreation, as in pagan myth, resulting from the union between a god and a woman. Jesus’s birth is the creative act of the Holy Spirit pictured as the overshadowing of the power of the Most High. The word “overshadow” is the same word used of the cloud out of which the voice spoke at the transfiguration. In both places it refers to the cloud in which God’s glory was manifested. The cloud of God’s glory made his presence visible to men, yet at the same time hid him from the eyes of men and preserved the mystery of his being. It both revealed God, and concealed him. So the birth of Jesus is the mysterious event whereby God revealed himself in a creative act whose nature is totally hidden from us. It calls for worship, not explanations.*”

The virgin birth causes problems for some skeptical people but it’s a non-starter if you really take the Bible to be the word of God and believe God can do whatever he wants to bring about whatever he wants in the creation he brought into being. He’s God – that’s what God does and that is why it calls for worship and not explanations. That’s why Mary, after the amazement and wonder and incredulity at what God had planned for her and ultimately for humanity, could sing out, “*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;*” Luke 1:46b-47.

In our jaded and self-imposed desperation, humanity had grown increasingly weary and depressed. So much so that some endeavor to conjure the joy they once experienced as children, whether it was real or imagined, by putting up Christmas decorations in October and playing Christmas music ad nauseam.

It doesn’t work without Jesus. A weary world needs Jesus. Jesus’s coming is how a weary world rejoices.

Mary experienced this. Mary knew cold fear, then extreme puzzlement, and then outright belief – and then she took God as his word and submitted with “*I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.*” Luke 1:38. And then she rejoiced. Let’s look at Mary’s annunciation, her affirmation by Elizabeth, and then the song that burst forth and see how we can experience similar joy as well.

First . . .

**Mary was highly favored**

- What made her special? Did she have characteristics that others didn’t have? Well, she was a virgin and Isaiah says, *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* Isaiah 7:14, so that rules out all sexually active females and all males for the job. And that made her special, in a way. But it’s not what the angel meant. Actually, through this wonderful young woman, who really was a good person, God was showing his favor on ALL of humanity. The long expected Messiah was finally arriving. God’s favor was arriving.
- Immanuel – God with us was really happening. The favor of God was coming to humanity and Mary was the one who, by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, would give birth to the one who was given for the salvation of the world.
- So, we too, are highly favored. Have you thought about that? *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16 isn’t just a memory verse that got you a pat on the back in Sunday School back when you were a kid, it’s the truth straight from the mouth of the very one who came to perish, in our place. It’s the truth that all who call upon that name,

Jesus, will not perish but will have eternal life. That's the favor of God. So, Mary heard, "*Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you,*" Luke 1:28, and it was true. But it's true for us too.

- God's favor is upon all of us. We don't deserve it – no one does. But that didn't stop God from pouring his favor upon humanity on us, through the obedience of a young Jewish girl who said yes to his plan. Many of us have said yes to God's plan too – but if you have not, do it now and you will know how a weary world can rejoice.
- Next . . .

### **The Lord was with Mary**

- That's what the angel said, listen again, "*Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!*" Luke 1:28b. And it goes on to say she immediately became troubled and wondered about what kind of greeting was. Once again – it was a promise that, because God was with her, his plan to be with all of humanity would fully unfold.
- It's the very meaning of Immanuel – God WITH us, that name we already heard just a few minutes ago and what we hear countless times through the Christmas season. It's important, we never let it grow cold and empty:

*O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.  
O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode.  
O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light.  
O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Immanuel means God has been with us, is with us, and will be with us as his plan unfolds, as it did through Mary, it will unfold through us too. That way, we too can be God's instruments to make sure a weary world rejoices.

- Finally, we see in her song that . . .

### **Mary was blessed**

- We saw last week that her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, full of the Holy Spirit blurted, *Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* Luke 1:42b-43. And she was. And maybe it had been simmering in her soul prior to this, but a real confirmation of the truth happened and she too realized, MY BABY IS MY SAVIOR! That's a show stopping thought. She realized more than ever that she was indeed blessed. And Elizabeth knew it too. We need to realize it too – because of Mary's baby we are blessed too. Mary's baby is our Savior.
- The realization erupted into Mary's sweet and powerful song – *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . .* Luke 1:46-47.

But just look at that song – it's our song too. I. H. Marshall writes, "*Mary's hymn praised God for his personal blessing to her, a merciful act which was thoroughly in line with the way in which he cared for the humble and brought down their haughty oppressors.*" He goes on to say, "*The expression of the low estate, is Mary's feeling of unworthiness for her great honor. God shows that he is holy by saving his people and acting mightily on their behalf.*"

- Mary is saying, in her words, *And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.* Luke 1:50 that the Lord is with us too. God's blessing is what God is always doing. He didn't do it just once in Mary – but he has continued it from generation to generation. That's why Christmas is so glorious – it's the outpouring of the truth that  
*He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.* Luke 1:54-55

We are that offspring. Mary's baby was her Savior and ours too. Mary's blessing is our blessing too. And that's another reasons A WEARY WORLD REJOICES. Amen.