

4. Consider your own response to this text.

a. What did Mary's final statement to Gabriel show about her relationship with God (1:38)? How is this exemplary for us?

b. How has the fact that "no word from God will ever fail" (1:37; NIV, 2011) taken root in your life?

Sermon Notes

"Mary's Journey Toward Faith"

Luke 1:26-38

December 23, 2018

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Mike and Patty King - Red River Youth for Christ, ND

Pray for Mike's work with the youth through the school and West Central Regional Juvenile Center. Let's also pray for Mike and Patty as they foster parent a young man moving into their home, that God will bring peace to his soul.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-23-18

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 108.

Getting Started:

1. How do you tend to react when you receive unexpected good news?

Digging Deeper:

Read Luke 1:26-38.

2. Mary questions how this birth can occur, given her lack of sexual experience (1:34). She does not doubt the announcement, for she does not ask for a sign as Zechariah did [in 1:18, Zechariah asks “how shall I know this?” versus Mary’s “how can this be?” Zechariah asks for a sign]. Rather she is puzzled as to how this birth can occur, a question that causes the angel to elaborate (1:35). (Darrell Bock, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Luke Volume 1, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994, p. 118, n. 33).
 - a. Trace the progression of Mary’s reactions/responses over the whole course of her exchange with the angel. Where did she start, where did she end up, and how did she get there?
 - b. How do you think Mary’s story reflects the progression each of us must undergo in our journey toward faith?

3. Gabriel’s announcement is crucial to our understanding of who Jesus is.
 - a. How did Gabriel describe the child that would be born to Mary (1:31-33)? Why are these prophecies significant to you?

- b. The eternal rule of the Davidic kingship is a common OT theme. What do you learn about it from the following passages?

2 Samuel 7:11-16

Psalms 89:3-4, 28-37

Psalms 132:12

Isaiah 9:7

Daniel 7:13-14

- c. How does Gabriel say this OT prophecy will be fulfilled in Jesus (1:32-33)?