

## INTRODUCTION:

1. [Image] Every year my first wrestling practice would begin the same way, with fundamentals. We would start with the correct wrestling stance. The coach would go over how to squat down to protect your legs. We'd go over how to move and walk in this stance. Then we would spend the rest of the practice on the most basic wrestling takedown, a double leg. These would be moves I'd done thousands of times and I could do them now in my sleep. But every year we started with the same fundamentals. Because they are too important to skip over. Much like how John Wooden, championship basketball coach would always start with how they should tie their shoes.
2. [Need] As Christians we are entering into Christmas time. And these next few weeks we are looking at the Christmas story in the gospel of Luke. It is a fundamental and foundational story. Whether this has been the 100th time you have heard it or the first, we are all going to remind ourselves of the fundamentals of our faith. Because you cannot be a Christian if you don't rightly understand this story.
3. [Subject] This morning our passage is commonly referred to as "The Annunciation." It is Gabriel's announcement to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to our Savior and King. We will study this famous passage to remind ourselves of the significance of this event.
4. [Text] Luke 1:26-45
5. [Preview] We will look at the revealing of the king, our response to the king, and finally the reward of the king.

First, we will look at the revealing of the king. Point number 1 if you are taking notes is that **Jesus is the promised Davidic King. Jesus is the promised Davidic King.**

The entire point of this birth narrative is that Jesus is a king in the Davidic line.

But before we can unpack this statement we need to look at the text. How does our story begin?

Verse 26 **"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,"**

Six months after Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and Elizabeth he shows up again.

And the angel is sent by God to a small town in Galilee called Nazareth.

A small tiny village that probably only had a few hundred people living there.

It is never mentioned outside of the Bible in this period because it is so unimportant.

Even Nathaniel in John 1:46 says, **"can anything good come out of Nazareth?"**

It is nowhere special.

And to this nowhere special place,

To a no one special young woman, Gabriel appears.

Verse 27 **"to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary."**

And we know very little about her.

Mary is one of the most common names, even in her day.

There are a number of prominent Marys in the Bible alone.

We know that she is engaged, but they are at least months, possibly years ahead of the wedding and consumption.

Compared to Zechariah, who was righteous and in the temple performing important duties!

Mary is just a regular young woman in a small town.

She was probably just going through her ordinary routine,

Maybe doing the chores, or being hard at work.

But the most significant fact we see about her is that she is **"of the house of David."**

Both through her engagement to Joseph  
And in her own right.

Verse 28 **"And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"**

She is called favored.

There is also something subtle in this greeting.

It is not just that God is with her now.

It is that God will be with her in the future.

God will be present as she embarks on this new journey.

He will never leave her nor forsake her.

In one sense this will be literally fulfilled by her son Jesus.

God will be present in her house living by her side.

And she is rightly confused by this greeting.

Verse 29 **"But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."**

This favor that she has found is the unmerited, undeserved, unbelievable grace of God.

It is a gift that she didn't earn through holiness.

She did not gain it because of her faithful attendance at the temple.

It certainly is not because of her noble position as someone important.

And this blessing is so incredible because the promised Davidic King will be her son.

She is going to be the one to give birth to the Messiah.

I had a professor who mentioned that every Jewish woman probably hoped they would be the one.  
That every conception since Eve wondered if this would be the seed of the woman to destroy the serpent.  
And finally, Mary is chosen.

Verse 31 **"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end."**

Mary understands exactly what this means.  
She knows that the king from the house of David will be her son.

If we look back at Israel's history they have always wanted a king.  
Israel asked for a king one day.  
The demand for a king was not wrong.  
The law itself was filled with laws regarding how their kings should rule.  
But the problem in 1 Samuel 8 was that they wanted **"a king like the other nations."**  
They did not want God as their king,  
They wanted a human king.  
So they got Saul.

But if they were patient, they could have had David.  
Because David was the greatest king in their history.

I love studying American Presidents.  
It is always interesting to see people argue and rank presidents.  
Everyone has a different list.  
And some of your favorite presidents are someone else's worst.  
Well, for Israel, David is number 1 on everyone's list.  
And they all wish they could have a king like him again.

And God made a covenant to David in 2 Samuel 7.

The primary promise is the one mentioned in verse 33

2 Samuel 7:16 **"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."**

A descendent of David would always be on the throne.

They would keep God's people and Israel safe.

He would defeat their enemies.

And no one would ever assassinate him.

No one would ever vote him out.

No coup would ever succeed.

So Jesus comes to fulfill this covenant promise made to David.

You cannot understand Jesus' identity as King apart from David.

And you cannot really understand Jesus' role as Savior apart from His kingship.

From the beginning, Jesus is born as a king coming to enact a kingdom.

If you remember from two weeks ago our message of the book of Luke.

**Jesus is the promised King who came to preach and enact His kingdom, which is for all people, through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.**

And that kingdom will never end.

This is the promise of Jesus.

Every time He preaches the good news of the kingdom.

Every time He talks about the kingdom of God,

He is talking about the kingdom God promised David.

Gabriel comes to announce that the promised king has finally arrived.

And all of those promises are about to come true.

**[Transition]** The promised Davidic King is going to be born, so how should we respond?

Point number 2 **Respond to the King with faith. Respond to the King with faith.**

The reality of the arrival of Jesus demands a response.  
And we can either respond with belief or doubt.

There are several miracles in this account that require faith.  
The first is the miraculous nature of the virgin birth.  
Jesus is born of a young woman who is a virgin.

Some try to explain away this passage.  
They begin by believing that it is impossible, which it is.  
So, they may say that these ancient people were just fooled.  
As if they had no idea how children were conceived.

Or some may try to say that this was a story created later.  
But the church has always believed this fact.  
You can believe many things and still be a Christian.

You cannot deny the virgin birth and be a Christian.  
It is one of the essential and nonnegotiable doctrines of our faith.

But the virgin birth is not even the most unbelievable miracle in this passage.  
The greatest miracle is the miracle of the incarnation.  
Which is a fancy theological word to describe God becoming man.  
The idea that the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity would enter human flesh.  
He would condescend to us and be born as a baby.  
He would be willing to accept our human limitations.

Believing in the virgin birth and incarnation is necessary.  
Not just because God says they are true, but because of their significance.

First, is necessary because the Savior must be born without sin.  
Jesus cannot be the perfect sacrifice for our sins if he himself is a sinner.

And we do not just decide to become sinners as soon as we are able.  
Sin is something that we are born into.  
Jesus must be miraculously conceived so that He can be born without the taint of sin.

And even more than the necessity of being born free from sin.  
Jesus must be miraculously conceived from a virgin because he is God.  
The point of this narrative is that the davidic king is God himself.  
It is not just a man.  
It is not just a superhero or a Superman.  
The davidic king is God.

Jesus was not a human baby who was taken over by God.  
Jesus was not a human who was then adopted by God.  
Jesus is and was God from before the moment of His miraculous conception.  
The virgin birth is a necessity because the divinity of Jesus is a necessity.  
But He is also human.  
The wonder of the incarnation is that Jesus is both truly God and truly man

How does Mary respond?  
How does this young woman respond to two of the craziest miracles ever heard?  
The greatest mystery that God has been foreshadowing for thousands of years is now being revealed here.  
And she responds with faith.

Verse 34 **"And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"**

Just like Zechariah, she asks Gabriel a question.  
But her question is different.

Zechariah asked, **"how shall I know this?"**

He wondered if Gabriel was telling the truth.  
He wanted a sign and proof.

Mary asks **"How will this be?"**

She wonders how God is going to do what He says.  
She has faith and just wants more information.

His is a question of doubt.  
Hers is a question of faith.

Make no mistake.  
It is not sinful to ask God questions.  
Tons of the Psalms and prophets are questions.

Asking questions does not even mean that you are doubting.  
Mary asks, but she asks in faith.

Mary believes even though she doesn't understand.  
Zechariah just hears that God is going to do again what He has done for countless barren women.  
The important priest doubts.  
But the ordinary woman believes.

And Gabriel responds in verse 35.

He does not rebuke her, he answers her question

Verse 35 **"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."**



The power of the Holy Spirit will make Mary pregnant.  
This is not a story like the old gods of Greece and Rome.  
This is not describing a sexual encounter, but a spiritual one.  
This is a miraculous moment.

The same Spirit who hovered over the waters will hover over Mary.  
The God who brought life from dust will bring life again.

**"The power of the Most High will overshadow you."**

I love the phrase "overshadow you."  
It should sound familiar.

It is used to describe the way the cloud of glory.  
The cloud overshadows the tent of meeting so that not even Moses can go inside.

The cloud in Matthew 17 and Mark 9 appears in Christ's baptism and overshadows them.

And out of the cloud, the voice of God declares **"this is my beloved Son, listen to Him."**

The cloud appears in Luke 9 at the transfiguration and overshadows the mountain

And Elijah and Moses appear when Jesus is revealed in all His glory.

That same cloud will come to overshadow Mary.  
And supernaturally she will conceive by the power of God.

And Gabriel continues in verse 36 **"And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren."**

Mary did not ask for a sign, but she gets one.  
Part of the reason that Elizabeth has stayed hidden is so that Mary wouldn't know.

So that at this moment Mary's faith would be rewarded.

Look again at the mercy of God.

He does not rebuke Mary.

He sees her faith and rewards it.

Verse 37 **"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

God can bring life where there was no life.

God can do all things.

Yet when we see the impossible, we doubt.

But not Mary.

Verse 38 **"And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."**

Mary speaks so few times in our Bibles.

But the few words she says are filled with faith.

Her identification as a servant is an act of faith.

Because faith is trust.

She willingly submits to God because she trusts Him.

**"let it be to me according to your word."**

No arguments or negotiation.

She has only faith.

And I think we need to understand how significant her response is.

Mary is signing up to be an unmarried pregnant woman.

She has to explain that she is a virgin.

That an angel appeared to her and that the King they have longed for her is actually her son.

That would be and will be hard.

Some of you are or have been single moms.

It's hard even today, isn't it?

Faith for Mary will be costly.  
She will be an outcast.  
This will lead to a lot of hard conversations.  
Thousands of stares and mocking.

There is a Christmas song you may know called "Mary did you know?"  
And each year I hear Christians argue with each other about how much  
Mary knew.

Next week we will see that she knew a lot.  
But she didn't know everything.  
She did not know for sure how this would all play out.  
But she had faith.

**"May it be so according to your word."**

Whatever the future looks like, Mary has faith.

But how will you respond?  
Do you respond like Zechariah or Mary?

I am far more like Zechariah.  
I respond with questions and doubts.

I need to know all of the answers.  
I want to know how this will effect me.  
I need to see how everything will play out.

But Mary doesn't.  
She just believes.  
She has faith even though she doesn't understand everything.

The birth of Christ has been announced to you.  
Do you believe?  
You don't have to understand all of the theological intricacies.

You don't need to have all of the historical proof or understanding.  
You just need faith  
Do you have faith?

One way that Christians can respond with faith is by not being bored with this story.

It is by pondering and wondering on the miraculous nature of Jesus.

Of the fact that He would come to us.

Instead of wanting our ears tickled by new things,

We could have faith and delight in the wonders of what Jesus has done.

**[transition]** The Davidic king is being revealed, and we are supposed to respond with faith. And what is the reward?

Point number 3: **Those with faith in the king will be blessed. Those with faith in the king will be blessed.**

What we see next in the story is how Mary is blessed because of her faith.

Verse 39 ***"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth."***

Mary quickly goes to see her relative.

We don't know how fast,

but probably as quickly as she could manage the trip.

Part of it could have just been the excitement to tell people you love that you are pregnant.

But there are other factors at play.

Gabriel told Mary that Elizabeth is also pregnant.

This was actually meant to be a sign for Mary.

A sign that she really would be miraculously pregnant.

And that her child would be the promised Messiah king.

But I also bet that Mary was nervous.  
I would be.  
She is a young unmarried woman.  
She has to tell people that she is pregnant.  
This is many woman's nightmare.

And as Rob taught us last week, Elizabeth is a righteous woman.  
We have no idea what Mary was thinking.  
It would have been normal and natural to be nervous.  
To be scared if she would be believed.

I would have spent the whole journey rehearsing what to say.  
How I would break the news.  
How I could try to explain it.

But before Mary can get into her explanation.  
She only says hello.

Verse 41 **"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,"**

John the Baptist's first prophetic act begins in the womb.  
It is not just a random kick because mom was excited.  
Already, John knows that the Messiah is here.

And Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit.  
She has more than a prophet in her womb,  
But the Holy Spirit fills her body.  
And she cannot help but prophesy.

Verse 42 **"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? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."**

Elizabeth prophesies a blessing over Mary.  
Part of the blessing is the fact that Mary will bear the King.  
The Messiah and Savior they have longed for has come at last.

And Elizabeth acknowledges and knows that her Lord has come.

Mary gets a title here.  
And we can almost skip over it if we are not careful.

**"Blessed are you among women."**

Mary might have a common name, but she has an uncommon gift.  
Elizabeth prophesies that she is the most blessed of women.

But why is she blessed?

Verse 45 **"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."**

She is blessed because of her faith.  
She is blessed because she believed what God said.  
It is her faith that gives her this blessing.

Mary this passage is referred to as the Most Blessed woman.

She is a woman above all women.

So what are we to do with that?

Those of you who come from Catholic backgrounds may be a little nervous

because there are some Faith Traditions like the Catholic church that will take this passage and say yes!

Mary is the Most Blessed among all women.

And so they will over-elevate Mary.

And say that well we can pray to Mary because she can be a mediator between us and her son Jesus.  
Because she has been given this special and unique place above all Humanity.

Now we don't have time to get into all the intricacies of Mariology.  
And I don't think we need to because I don't think that that is a significant problem in our church.

What I do think can be a problem is that we can tend to overreact against an over-elevation of Mary.

At least we're me this is been my experience growing up in a Southern Baptist Church in white evangelicalism.  
Especially because I grew up in a predominantly Catholic area.

So as a reaction to that we tended to downplay Mary.  
We can ignore her or push her to the side.

I don't think we need to build shrines or candles we're put icons of her on your wall.  
But I do think that we should talk about Mary one of the heroes of the faith because she is.  
She has incredible faith, especially for a young woman.

And she is presented to us here as an example for us to emulate.  
We should try to walk in her footsteps.  
We should let her faith encourage our faith.

Because those who have faith like Mary will be rewarded like Mary was.

Would you like to have a blessed Christmas this year?  
All of us would.

Even those who aren't Christians can get caught up in the Wonder and Enchantment of this season.

And they can desire to experience the unique blessing.

Listen to me that blessing will not come true magical belief in Saint Nicholas.

It will not come just by having gratitude and thankfulness.

It won't come from getting a really good present this year just like you hoped.

It won't even come by getting to spend great time with your grandkids or your family with people that you love.

A true blessing and reward that you can experience comes through faith.

Because those who have faith will be blessed.

We are in a unique position compared to Mary.

She responded in faith by believing and looking forward to what God would do.

We get to look backwards and to see that Mary's Faith was rewarded in Jesus did exactly what he promised.

But like Mary we also look forward.

We look forward to the second Advent of the king.

We look forward to the Return of the King when he will do all that he promised.

In the moment to respond with faith is right now.

The blessing of eternal life is here available to all of us.

And the blessings that are to come are available to all of us.

But we must have faith.



The rewards of the Kingdom are not only available to young virgins with incredible faith.

They're available to those who are old sinners.

They are available to prostitutes and tax collectors.

Are available to the poor and the overlooked.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

#### CONCLUSION:

1. [Summary] This morning we have seen that Jesus is the promised Davidic King. We should respond to the king with faith. Those with faith in the King will be blessed.
2. [Challenge] Have faith this Advent season. The King has come.