

The Miraculous Dawn of Salvation

November 3, 2024 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

The beauty of God's _____. (28-30)

The beauty of God's _____. (31-33)

The beauty of God's _____. (35-37)

The beauty of a humble _____. (38)

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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

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. 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." 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. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Share about a time that you received some surprising or shocking news.

Read & Discuss: Luke 1:26-38

1. Knowing that Luke is attentive to details, what are some of the details that stand out to you in verses 26-27? Why would each of these be important for what Luke is about to tell us?
2. How do the angel's words in verse 28 set the tone for the message the angel is about to deliver? As Mary "tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be" (v. 29), what are ideas she might have come up with?
3. What are the key aspects of Jesus' identity and role as described by Gabriel in verses 31-33? How does Gabriel's description align with how we often think of Jesus?
4. How would you describe the difference between Mary's initial response to Gabriel in verse 34 and Zechariah's response back in verse 18? What would you find as a potential reason for Gabriel's different responses to Mary and to Zechariah? (Can we learn anything from their examples about appropriate or inappropriate ways to ask questions of God?)
5. What is the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' conception (v. 35)? How would you explain why the virgin birth is so significant to the Christian faith?
6. Why do you think the angel told Mary about her cousin Elizabeth (v. 36)? How does it encourage you when you hear how God is at work in the lives of other people besides your own?
7. Verse 37 tells us, "Nothing will be impossible for God." Do you think believers are right to apply this to all circumstances? Why or why not? Are there things for which you find the fact that "nothing will be impossible for God" hard to believe? Explain.
8. Considering some of the potential social and personal challenges that Mary might have anticipated, what do you admire about Mary's final response to Gabriel in verse 38? How can we cultivate a similar attitude in our own hearts?
9. Reflecting on both of Gabriel's appearances in Luke 1, what can we learn about God through these encounters? What should be our response to these truths about God?

Apply: What's one "impossible" thing that you would like to work at trusting God for, or one "impossible" situation you would like to trust God in? How will you begin to pray towards this end?

Pray: Ask God to continue to give us eyes to see the beauty of what He is doing in and around our lives. Praise Him for ways you have seen His hand at work. Pray that God prepares your heart to celebrate well the advent of our salvation.