

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

How Can This Be?

Luke 1:28-38

What is a Miracle?

- There are many definitions of a miracle, some say miracles may be:
 - an amazing product or achievement, or an outstanding example of something.
 - a highly improbable or extraordinary event, development, or accomplishment that brings very welcome consequences
 - a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a **divine agency (i.e., God)**
- Miracles are events that *defy* logic, scientific explanation, or mathematical calculation; your only answer is *divine involvement*, God stepped in and did what only God can do
- In the Bible, miracles are called the *works of God, deeds of power, signs and wonders*

A Blessing from God

[28] And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. [29] And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. [30] And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

- This is a time in biblical history when miracles weren't happening
- There hadn't been any miracles in over 400 years
- The angel Gabriel comes to Mary with a message from God and he says *three* important things to her:
 - 1. You are highly favored**
 - Favor is the unmerited, undeserved grace of God
 - 2. The LORD is with you** (the master, controller, the supreme authority, the Creator of the universe)
 - Before being asked to *do* anything, God has promised to be *with* Mary
 - God would *never* call you, and not be *with* you
 - 3. You're blessed among women**
 - Mary is blessed *among* women, not *above* women, this does not change who Mary is or give her special status; she has been singled out by God to be used in His plan of salvation
 - You are blessed throughout generations
 - 4. You have found favor with God**
 - Mary was favored by God to be the mother of Jesus
 - No matter who you are, or where you're from, God's favor can find you!
- The favor of God is a unique privilege
- Mary is looking and listening to the angel in all of his dazzling glory, and she can't quite figure it out
 - Mary is actually *troubled*, disturbed, agitated, shaken, and confused by the site and sayings of Gabriel
- Her unassuming nature and humility may be some of the traits God was looking for
- Gabriel tells Mary not to fear because she has found favor with God
- What God is saying about us we need to say to ourselves
- Let's have faith in God's word about us:

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1. We are highly favored; special in the eyes of God
 2. The Lord is with us, no matter what we face in life, we won't face it alone **Matthew 28:20 (KJV) "... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."**
 3. We are blessed, our life matters *now* and will have an impact for generations to come
 4. We have found favor with God
 - God has special plans for us
- There is nothing to fear or be disturbed about, we have found favor with God!

The Good News

31] And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. [32] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: [33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

- The angel of the Lord tells Mary why she has been favored by God
- Gabriel gave Mary the good news, she would become the mother of the Messiah, Jesus Christ!
- God always calls us to do things that are bigger than us
- God is going to use Mary to bring the Messiah, Savior, Jesus Christ into the world
- **The favor of God is for God's purposes**
 - If you are favored **by** God, expect an assignment **from** God
- Gabriel tells Mary how she is to be favored of God
- The angel of the Lord tells Mary she is going to conceive; get pregnant and have a baby
 - The baby's name has already been chosen, you'll call him Jesus
 - Mary is giving birth to the Savior, the Deliverer
- He shall be great
 - He'll be called the Son of the Highest; He is the Son of God
- His kingdom shall have no end
 - Jesus' kingdom is not of this earth, one that lasts for a season and is gone
- Mary has been favored by God to bring Jesus into the world
- The favor of God is always for God's purposes

How Can This Be?

[34] Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? [35] And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

- Gabriel told Mary *what* would happen, but she didn't know *how* it would happen
- The 1st question about the virgin birth is from Mary herself
- Mary asks, "*How can this be?*"
- There is a difference between:
 - "How can it be?"
 - And "It can't be!"
- One is a question rooted in *faith* and the other is a *declaration of doubt*
- Mary is looking at what the angel has said through the eyes of faith
 - Mary was not doubting, she wanted more information

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- Mary believed the **promise**, but she didn't understand the **performance**
- She was not arguing the **possibility**, she was asking to know the **methodology**
- Mary wanted to know how a virgin can give birth to a child
- How can this be from a practical standpoint?
- **Mary may not have all the answers, but what she does have is faith**
 - Faith is required to believe for the miraculous
 - Faith is required to do what God is calling you to do
- Gabriel told Mary this is *how* you will have a child and *still* be a virgin
 1. **"The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee."**
 - a. This will be a miracle
 - b. **God's Spirit sets apart and activates, creates and re-creates by the Word of God.**
 2. **"The power of the Highest [God] shall overshadow thee."**
 - a. God Most High in the Old Testament is El Elyon, which means almighty, all powerful, sovereign God
 - b. When we say God is sovereign, He is ruler over everything that exists
 - c. The birth of this child will be completely by the all powerful, sovereign God
 - d. The child's conception and growth during pregnancy and His birth and life were under the shadow and wing of Almighty God.
 - e. **It was God's power that saw to the whole operation**, not the presence or power of an angel or of a man or of any other creature.
 3. **The child born of Mary will be holy**
 - This child will be holy, completely pure
 - This child will be holy because only God is holy
 4. **This child will be called the Son of God**
 - Jesus is called the Son of God because He has the *nature and the essence* of God
- **What Gabriel is saying to Mary is the birth of Jesus will be a miraculous birth and you will be a part of it**
 - Believers are to believe the miraculous
 - We are to believe God when He makes promises to us
- If God has *avored* you, He can work *through* you
- **Faith and favor go together**

A Faith Building Example

[36] And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. [37] For with God nothing shall be impossible.

- The angel of the Lord gave Mary an example of God's miraculous favor and power to *strengthen* her faith
 - Your cousin Elisabeth is pregnant in her old age
 - She's now in her 6th month of pregnancy
- If a barren, old woman can bear a child, then a virgin can conceive
- **For with God nothing is impossible**

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- If the Lord can send Jesus our Savior through a young woman from a non-descript town, surely God can work through you
- If the Lord can work a miracle through Mary, then surely, the Lord can work a miracle through you!
- The Word of God will never lose its power

Let it Be

[38] And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

- Mary was encouraged and her faith strengthened by Word of God
- Mary said I'm the Lord's handmaid, be it unto me according to thy word
- Mary goes from *How can it be?* to *Let it be!*
- Mary placed her faith in the plan of God, and in the Word of God
- Mary simply *accepted* what God wanted to do in her life
- Mary was *at peace* with God's Word and plan for her life
- It was not about her; it was all about God
- **Be it unto me according to thy word**
- Mary is agreeing with God, no word from God will be void of power
- Mary said, whatever you say God, that's what I will do
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, God:
- Mary submitted herself to the word of God
- God is looking to us to have that kind of faith where, regardless of the *cost or consequence*, we will do what God has said
- ***Be like Mary, simply embrace it, have faith in the miraculous Word God gives you!***