

Longing

Series: Advent: Thrill of Hope

December 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We are currently in our sermon series called “Advent: Thrill of Hope.” Today, we looked at the story of how God asked a young teenage girl named Mary from an obscure town called Nazareth to do the unthinkable and the unimaginable.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been asked to do something that seemed impossible? What is often our normal thought process when God asks us to do something that seems illogical, or maybe even a little crazy?
2. Read Luke 1:26-28. Try to picture what’s going on in these verses. The angel came to the small obscure town of Nazareth in Galilee. At the time, Mary was probably around 12-14 years old. How do you think you would have reacted if you were in her shoes?
3. Read Luke 1:29-33. What did the angel say to her? What claims was he making about the child that she would bear? How would you respond if you heard all of things from a complete stranger?
4. Read Luke 1:34-37. What promise does the angel give to Mary regarding her and this child of promise? What is the significance of this promise?
5. In Luke 1:38, Mary replies to everything that the angel told her by saying, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word be fulfilled.” In what ways did she demonstrate and exercise great faith? How can Mary’s response inspire and challenge us?

CONCLUSION

In our passage for today, Mary started out being greatly troubled as she was confronted with the prospect of being chosen by God for a very special mission. This feeling then turned into great confusion, as the angel presented her with an unthinkable and unimaginable task. But then, all of the trouble and confusion she felt turned into great faith, because she trusted that no word from God would ever fail. And because she placed her faith and trusted in her great God, Mary was greatly encouraged.

At times, God may ask us to do what seems impossible or illogical. However, He promises to be with us every step of the way. The truth is, God doesn’t need to reveal the whole entire story to us in order for us to follow Him. As is often the case, He gives us what we need to know and then He expects for us to trust in Him. The question is: What will we do when that moment comes, when God asks us to trust and follow Him? Will we choose the sure and safe thing, or will we lean on His perfect will for our lives?

“I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide.” – Martin Luther