

Luke 1:26-38

Intro.

- I. Why do we struggle with God's **message, timing & purpose**?
 - A. His message is often contrary to our opinion; His timing contrary to our calendar & His purpose contrary to our plans.
 - 1) Prov. 3:5-6; 16:9; 19:21

Body

I. Mary's testimony – Luke 1:26-38

A. She gave birth to the Son of the Highest – v. 32

- 1) Jesus was the Son of God; God in the flesh. *Did Mary grapple with this?*
 - a) The angel told Mary:
 - i) She would give birth as a virgin – Is. 7:14.
 - ii) Her Son would be the Messiah – Matt. 1:21.
 - iii) V.32-33 – He would be great; be called the Son of the Highest; God would give Him the throne of David; He would reign forever & His kingdom would never end. A lot to process!!!
 - b) Mary's response:
 - i) V.29 – troubled (Gr. = completely disturbed)
 - ii) V.34 – referenced the angel's first message in v.31: the physical miracle = the human perspective vs. the divine – Jer. 32:17.
- 2) *How often do we look at God's message/word the same way: focus on & interpret things from the human perspective rather than the Divine?*

a) *The result = skepticism; doubt; arrogance; weak faith* – Matt. 13:58; Mark 6:1-6; **Ps. 78:41** – “...they limited the Holy One of Israel.” – 1 Thess. 5:19.

3) ***How did we limit the Holy One of Israel in 2020? What did our lives give birth to? What does God see fit to give us to carry, if anything, in 2021??***

B. She was “***enveloped***” by the power of the Highest – v.35

1) “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you...*”

a) **Overshadow** – to envelop in a haze of brilliance; to invest with supernatural influence.

2) **How did this happen?**

a) V.28, 30 – Mary was pure physically & spiritually which resulted in God’s favor (divine grace) & a high standing with God. She drew His attention & presence.

b) All this enabled Mary to be used by God for His glory, including the miraculous: she was the earthly vessel which carried the Messiah; the Savior of the world.

3) ***What’s our standing with God?***

a) *Is the Holy Spirit welcome in our lives???*

b) *Does He have the freedom to completely envelop us at any time for any reason?*

C. She submitted to the will of the Highest – v.38

1) *Submitting to God’s will; His higher purpose, means willfully relinquishing our rights to know the future, purpose & details God has for our own path...like Mary and Joseph.*

a) *It was customary for the husband to name the children, especially the sons* – Luke 1:59-66.

b) Mary & Joseph both surrendered control of the most minute detail, even the naming of their own child; their firstborn; to the control of their heavenly Lord – Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31.

2) ***Submitting to God means total surrender, not partial. We give Him access to every facet of our lives. There's no bartering with/ from God. It's all or nothing – Deut. 4:29; 6:5; Jer. 29:13; Prov. 8:17.***

a) Matt. 2:1-18 – *There can't be more than one king on an absolute throne:*

i) *When hearing there was the threat of another king in Israel, the true King, Herod's response was to kill & eliminate the threat.*

ii) *We do the same thing: if Jesus threatens our absolute rule of our lives, we want to eliminate that threat.*

iii) *But if we choose to accept the word & will of the Lord, even the impossible with man, & allow Him to work as He sees fit, that is when we will see the miraculous power of God invade & transform our lives as well as the lives of others – **Ex. 34:10.***