

CAN THE CHRISTMAS STORY TURN YOUR DOUBTS INTO FAITH?

The Christmas story has become so familiar to us that it runs the risk of having no impact on us. But what if we told you that the old familiar story of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus has the ability to turn your doubts into faith? We can hear your response, “but how?”

Last week Jeff wrote about Mary’s question to the Angel Gabriel, a messenger from God, who told her she would bear a son. “How will this happen?” Mary asked. This is a classic doubt question. God tells us he wants to do something through us, and we say, “but how?”

Gabriel says, “He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.” (Luke 1:32-33)

At first, Mary was focused on the impossible. She asks, “But how?” That’s what we humans do. God tells us what’s possible, and we think of what’s impossible. But as her encounter with the Angel Gabriel progresses, Mary is moved from asking “How can this be possible?” to proclaiming, “Let it be with me just as you have said.” (Luke 1:38)

But how?

The Angel’s words are what make the difference. He says,

“The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.”

Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

The impossible can become not just possible, but reality. But how? How can we get to the point that Mary did, when she is faced with the impossible that she says, “I am ready to serve, let it be with me just as you have said.”

Look at the Angel’s words again. We need to highlight, underline, circle the words and images of power in the angel’s announcement.

v.32 Great; Most High; Lord God; Throne of David

v.33 He will rule; forever; no end, kingdom

v. 35 Holy Spirit; power; Most High; Son of God.

God’s power has intervened in the impossible. God gave to them a list of impossibilities and God gave His power. Christmas is the intervention of God’s power in the world of impossibilities. Christmas is God’s power turning the impossible into the possible – turning the “how?” into “Let it be with me.”

Today, say with Mary, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.”

Serving Him with you,
Pastors Jeff & Jannette