

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series Immanuel
Sermon Title The Promise
Bible Texts Luke 1:26-38
Date December 3, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Imagine for a moment being visited by an angel. How do you think you'd respond?
- Question 2: What is your favorite Christmas Carol? What does it teach about the Savior?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

A story we've heard many times

- Question 3: What was the angel Gabriel's mission when God sent him to Mary?
- Question 4: The angel had spoken to Zechariah several months earlier (Luke 1:11-25). How would you describe the outcome of that encounter?
- Question 5: Why did Gabriel call Mary, "highly favored"? What does that say about both Mary and God?
- Question 6: How does Mary respond when Gabriel told her "The Lord is with you"? What would have been your reaction?
- Question 7: What did Gabriel tell her in verse 31? What impact would that have on her family?
- Question 8: Why was it important that Mary was a virgin?
- Question 9: What circumstances in Zechariah's life seemed to make the angel's promise to him impossible?
- Question 10: What situation did Gabriel offer to Mary as proof that nothing God promises is impossible?

The message we need to hear again and again

- Question 11: What does the angel proclaim about Jesus in verses 32-33?
- Question 12: What was the expectation of the Jews for the coming of the Messiah? How would the declarations of the angel align with the promises they knew? (Deuteronomy 18:15, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7 for example)
- Question 13: In light of verse 35, how do you interpret Jesus being called "the Son of the Most High" (1:32)?

Mary's response, our response

- Question 14: When Gabriel declared his message, Mary asked him “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” Was she doubting the angel's message? (v 34, 45)
- Question 15: After Gabriel answered her question, how did Mary respond? What stands out to you in her response? How does this compare with how you respond to God?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 16: How do these prophetic voices encourage you in worship and your walk with Christ?
- Question 17: What are the takeaways from the way Mary responded in this story? Have there been times when God has called you? How did you respond? Like Mary or Zechariah?
- Question 18: Which of the angel's proclamations about Jesus shape the way you live your life? Why?
- Question 19: The message of Jesus proclaimed by Gabriel are at the heart of the good news. Is there someone this Advent Season that needs to hear this good news?
- Question 20: What are some ways you can carve out more time for God in your busy life?