



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Conceived

Sermon Title: "Mary: Servant of God"

Passage: Luke 1:34-38

Connection to Luke 1

Luke continues his narrative of the events surrounding the birth of the forerunner, John, and the Messiah, Jesus. Mary received a visit from the angel Gabriel in the sixth month of her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy.

Introduction/Opening

Many things that are in everyday use were once thought to be impossible. The electric light bulb was considered impossible just a little over 150 years ago. The automobile, or horseless carriage as it was once called, was an impossibility; it was still a novelty back in the early 1900s. Building and flying an airplane was thought to be a foolish and ridiculous concept until the Wright brothers flew one at Kitty Hawk. The idea of television in its infancy was considered by some an impossibility and a waste of time. And what about personal computers?

So, when Gabriel came to Mary, he told her about something impossible—a virgin birth. How could a woman conceive and remain a virgin? The answer is Luke 1:37: "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Outline

1. The Searching Amazement (v. 34)

Mary's response to Gabriel indicates that she was searching to understand.

Zechariah had responded with a question as well when Gabriel delivered God's message to him (Luke 1:18). Mary's question was not like Zechariah's question.

She did not seek a sign. She did not express doubt in the words from Gabriel. Rather she asked how this could take place since she was a virgin.

The question indicates she understood this would be something that would happen before she and Joseph consummated their union. Mary wanted to know how God would accomplish this miracle.

2. The Simple Answer (vv. 35-37)

The answer was simple in action: Gabriel thus explained that the Holy Spirit would come over her and overshadow her and she would conceive. In a gentle operation of divine power, the Holy Spirit would cause her to conceive.

The answer was simple in result: The One born to her would be called the Son of God. This miracle distinguishes Jesus not only as fully God but also fully human and born without sin.

The answer was simple in proof: Gabriel pointed to the fact that Elizabeth was pregnant. She had a personal example of God's power at work. God moved everything to the point in history to fulfill His plan of redemption. Gabriel affirmed to her nothing is impossible to God.

3. The Submissive Agreement (v. 38)

What was her response? She did not say to Gabriel, "Let me think about this." She did not believe it was only a dream from which she would soon awaken. In His grace, God chose Mary in eternity past, and she willingly submitted to His call and authority. We are called to submit to God's purposes. We should be like the preacher who had his congregation repeating with him, "Yes, Lord!" Then as they reached the height of their enthusiasm, he said, "There is your answer, Lord. Now, what is the question?"

Conclusion

Charles H. Spurgeon noted this about the coming of the Messiah in a sermon in December of 1884: "The reservoir of time had to be filled by the inflowing of age after age, and when it was full to the brim the Son of God appeared."¹ Every piece of the puzzle of time—every thread of the fabric of history and every stone of the map of geography—was all prepared. There was nothing haphazard about the coming of the Lord Jesus. The plan set forth by the Triune God in eternity past was now working its way out in history. All was in place—Joseph, Mary, Caesar Augustus, Zechariah, Elizabeth. All was ready, and not one piece was missing. Is the plan of redemption real in your life? Or, should the question be, is the Person of redemption real in your life?

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¹ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "The Great Birthday of Our Coming Age," *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 30*, December 21, 1884. <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-great-birthday-of-our-coming-age/#flipbook/3>, accessed August 6, 2020.