

Sunday Morning Message

December 15, 2019

Christmas Message

Nothing Shall Be Impossible with God

Text – Luke 1:26 - 56

Congregational Reading – Luke 1:35 - 37

Introduction

We will read a portion of the Christmas story given to us here in Luke's gospel, and we will see some of the events leading up to the birth of Christ from the perspective of Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus.

[Read Luke 1:26 - 56](#)

The focus of my message this morning is on verse 37:

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

From a human perspective, it is certainly understandable that the announcement from the angel regarding the birth of Jesus was met with some skepticism. It would be very hard for anyone to believe that a virgin could possibly be with a child, let alone a child of God. Mary didn't believe it at first ([Read again v. 34](#)). The angel explained what was going to happen, but he also gave Mary some proof, some evidence regarding her cousin Elizabeth. God allowed Mary to see the miraculous pregnancy of her cousin Elizabeth who had not only been barren in her child-bearing years, but was now well beyond the normal years for having children. Elizabeth's conception was miraculous because of her age; not miraculous to the extent that her virgin cousin Mary's would be, but miraculous nonetheless.

Joseph didn't believe this incredible story at first either:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had

bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." (Matthew 1:18-25)

Joseph was going to break off his engagement to Mary, no doubt because he did not believe her story. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and reminded him about the Old Testament prophecy from Isaiah, which foretold of the Messiah coming to the earth through the womb of a virgin. Joseph should have at least believed that a virgin birth was possible because of the Old Testament Prophecy, though he may have doubted that it would be his fiancé that would actually be that virgin.

The Scripture does not tell us, but I believe that it is safe to assume that Joseph and Mary's friends and relatives would also have had their doubts about what God was doing through the womb of Mary. And, these were people who believed in God and also trusted in His miraculous power. They believed that God had spoken the world into existence; and later destroyed the earth with a worldwide flood. They trusted that God delivered the Israelites miraculously from the Egyptians and actually parted the Red Sea. They knew that God had miraculously brought down the walls of Jericho.

The bottom line is that the same people that fully believed that God had done the miraculous in the past doubted that He was now doing the unbelievable in their present through the womb of Mary. Think of it - Omnipotent God becoming flesh through the virgin womb of a poor young woman from the insignificant little town of Nazareth.

Let's fast forward to today. Most, if not all of us in this room, believe that God did all of the aforementioned Old Testament miracles, and we also would say, "Amen", to the fact that Jesus Christ was truly born of a virgin. We also would agree that Jesus was miraculously resurrected on the third day after being crucified for our sins. We would likewise trust that all of the miraculous events recorded in the New Testament by Jesus and His disciples are also very true.

Another interesting observation is that God's people easily believe in something that God says will happen in the future; not the immediate future, but way off into the future. For instance, we all believe that Jesus is coming again, and with our mouths we would even say that we believe He's coming back soon, but what we really believe is that Christ's return is a long way off. At least, that's the way we live our lives.

So, like the Israelites in Jesus' day, we believe the stories about the miraculous things that God did in the distant past, and we also believe that God will do some pretty cool things way off in the future, but we really don't believe in an all-powerful, miracle making God who intervenes in our lives today.

What if God wanted to move into your life today, and do something big – something life changing, perhaps even something world changing - through you? Would you have enough faith to believe Him and follow Him?

God is still in the miracle business. He hasn't changed a bit. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever; and He works through ordinary people like you and me.

Remember, however, that God works through the principles established in His Word, and He doesn't expect you to believe in things that go against what He says in the Bible; but He does want you to believe in all of the promises that He has made to you today.

For instance:

He promises abundant and eternal life to all those who call upon Him in faith.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

Not just a life after death, but an abundant life, a purposeful life right now.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

He promises to provide every need and even some desires for those who delight in Him and are yielded to His purposes.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:19)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Psalm 37:4)

He promises never to leave us nor forsake us, and has even sent us His Holy Spirit to live within us and guide us into all truth.

He promises grace as we go through the unpleasant experiences that we sometimes face in this life. This grace from God will strengthen us and help us to endure the trials with our faith intact, assuring us that whatever happens to us down here is only temporary.

He promises that our lives down here will matter – they will be meaningful, and will count for eternity; and He also promises that our works on earth will follow us into Heaven.

2000 years ago, God came to a small, poverty stricken place called Nazareth, and changed the world through a young girl named Mary. She was surprised that God would be interested in using her – she doubted, she lacked faith.

Today God wants to change the world through normal people like you and me. God wants to use us as part of His wonderful, miraculous plan for the ages. Don't be surprised if God comes to you this Christmas. Don't be surprised if God wants to come through you this Christmas, just as He did through Mary so many years ago.

My challenge to you this Christmas:

Receive – If you have not already done so, receive God's gift of salvation.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:11-12)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Salvation is a gift that must be received. Christ came to earth to die for our sins. His blood provides atonement for every wrong that we have ever committed or ever will commit. His blood is sufficient for every person on earth – past, present, and future; but it is efficient only for those who receive it by faith.

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,..." (Acts 16:31)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Believe - Have faith in God – He is not only the God of yesterday or tomorrow. He is the God of today. Believe that He is active and working just as much today as He did in days gone by. He wants to use you today just as He used Mary on that first Christmas.

Maybe, He wants you to share the gospel message with your family.

Maybe, He wants you to comfort someone whose heart may be aching this Christmas.

Maybe, He wants to use you to do something here at the church.

Whatever He wants to do with you, it will be just as miraculous, and require just as much faith as Mary needed.

Mary had to come to grips with the fact that God was doing something through her. She had to receive it, and believe it, and then follow through with a plan that would forever change her life, as well as impact the rest of the world.

Joseph had to believe it too. He struggled at first, but then came to accept the challenge from God, and he submitted his life to God's will.

What does God want to do through you this Christmas? Don't be a bit surprised if God shows up in a big way and asks you to be involved in something miraculous.

Jesus came – I believe that

Jesus is coming back – I believe that too.

But, is Jesus doing anything big – anything miraculous - right now in your life? He wants to if you are willing to let Him – if you have enough faith to believe in Him today.

Jesus said: *"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."* (Matthew 19:26)

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23)

Use me to share the life-changing gospel with a co-worker?

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Use me to lead my neighbor to Christ?

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Me, get victory over my besetting sin?

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Me, teach a Sunday School class?

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

God is still in the business of doing the impossible!

Illustration

As a church in 2020, we are asking God to do some things that are impossible with men.

We want to see God reach into this community and not only save souls but transform their lives as well.

We stepped out in faith and put Justin and Wade on staff – that's impossible for us but not God.

We want to see God build a building that we simply cannot financially afford to build. He will have to do the impossible.

