

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### Luke 1:26-28 (ESV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O **favored** one, the Lord is **with** you!"

**"Favored" related to "with-ness" (~Presence of God).**

### Luke 1:29 (ESV)

But she was **greatly troubled** at the saying, and **tried to discern** what sort of greeting this might be.

**God's presence always "disturbs" the status quo.**

### Luke 1:30 (ESV)

And the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found **favor with God**."

**Fear: uncertainty about the future and/or about God (good-?)**

**Fear breeds **control**.**

### Luke 1:31-33

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**. <sup>32</sup> He will be **great** and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. And the Lord God will give to him the **throne** of his **father David**, <sup>33</sup> and he will **reign** over the house of Jacob **forever**, and of his kingdom there will be **no end**."

**Unmatched, Unlimited & Unending → Goodness found in Christ & His reign**

**Undivided Jesus: Savior AND Ruler**

**Jesus: additional or fundamental?**

### Luke 1:34 (ESV)

And Mary said to the angel, "**How** will this be, since **I** am a virgin?"

**Intellectual problem → Self-preoccupation**

### Luke 1:35-37 (ESV)

And the angel answered her, "**The Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the **power of the Most High** will **overshadow you**"; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible **with** God."

Christianity is **miracle**.

*Supernatural: Who God is & What He can do.*

Christianity is **conditional**.

*Our part: respond to God's initiative.*

The one response God asks for & deserves: **SURRENDER**

- Clear yet challenging
- Exclusive “gate”

We are already surrendered ...

**Luke 1:38 (ESV)**

And Mary said, “Behold, **I** am the **servant of the Lord**; let it be to **me** according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

God does more with and through our **surrender** than we can do with ...

- Control
- Performance & power
- Plans
- “Boxes”

1) Locate our resistance

2) Turn fully to the Lord Jesus Christ

**Surrender:**

- First time ...?
- Fresh ... ?
- Focused ...?