

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,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ 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.³² 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,³³ 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.³⁶ 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.³⁷ 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 ...?