

The Miracles of Christmas

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“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:26-38).

1. Is the Virgin Birth Possible?

There is a story of a young adult Bible study group where most of the members were recently married and newcomers to Christianity. They do not know much about the Bible. During the Bible study, the pastor read Matthew 1:18-25 that talked about the pregnancy of Mary and Joseph’s plan of divorce. One of the members asked if the virgin birth of Jesus really happened. Other member argued that a virgin birth didn’t make sense. An elder of the church said, “Hey guys, Joseph had no objection against Mary’s pregnancy when he heard from the angel about God’s plan, you are not her husband. Why bother?”

People say that the virgin birth of Jesus is impossible. The Bible is full of miracles that they can’t believe. What would you say if someone asks you about the virgin birth of Jesus? I’d like to share with you this morning what the real miracle of Christmas is.

2. Angel’s Visit to Mary

In Matthew chapter one Joseph is the main figure. However, In Luke 1:26-38 Mary is focused. Mary was living in a small-town, Nazareth. Mary was engaged to Joseph. She was probably a teenager at the time. The angel

Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, ***“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.”*** Mary said, ***“How can this be, since I am a virgin?”*** The angel explained, ***“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 holy; he will be called Son of God.”***

The Bible doesn't tell us how long it took for Mary to reply to the angel Gabriel, but we know what she said, ***“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”***

According to Jewish tradition, an engaged woman would be stoned to death if she were to become pregnant with the baby of another man. Mary would have known about this tradition. Yet she was willing to risk death to accomplish God's plan to give birth to the son of God, Jesus.

3. What are the Miracles of Christmas?

The birth of Jesus is considered one of the most important miracles in the Bible. However, I would like to see the faith of Mary as a miracle. Mary believed in the miracle of virgin birth without ever seeing this happen. And she believed that she could be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Where does her faith come from? She heard from the angel that Elizabeth, her relative got pregnant at her old age. And the angel reminded her that ***nothing will be impossible with God*** (verse 37). Do we believe that?

4. Conclusion

In the Bible, we read of many amazing miracle stories. The Bible tells us that God created the world and everything in it. Miracles are ordinary activities for God. The miracles that God does for his people are possible always and are a core part of who God is. But God invites his people to participate in the miracles to bless his people.

5. Application

How did God choose Mary? Mary was a very ordinary teenager living in a small town. No one would have expected the Savior of the world to come from a small town like Nazareth and from an ordinary teenager. But God does not concern about the reputations of a person or a town. God used Mary, an ordinary girl to bring the Messiah into the world.

God would do the same thing today. God is looking for men and women who are willing to take risk to save many lives in the world. When we trust in the Lord and step outside of our comfort zones, God would use us to be a blessing to others. Amen.