

A Favored Girl from a Forgotten Town

Luke 1:26-56

Taking it Home:

1. In what area of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God? What keeps you from believing this?
2. *Tim Keller says, "Becoming a Christian is not like signing up for a gym; it is not a 'living well' program that will help you flourish and realize your potential. Christianity is not another vendor supplying spiritual services you engage as long as it meets your needs at a reasonable cost. Christian faith is not a negotiation but a surrender. It means to take your hands off your life."*
What makes it difficult to surrender? Is there an area in your life that God is asking you to surrender or obey him in a new way?

Prayer Concerns:

Mary from Nazareth

Christmas Reflections from her story:

1. The appropriate response to God's _____ is _____.
_____ begets _____.
2. The appropriate response to God's _____ is _____.
_____ begets _____.
3. The appropriate response to God's _____ is _____.
_____ begets _____.

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What have you been told about the events surrounding your birth?

Digging Deeper:

Read Luke 1:26-56

1. Zechariah and Mary have a very similar response to the announcement of the angel Gabriel. (Compare Luke 1:11-20 and Luke 1:26-35) Why is it that Gabriel disciplines Zechariah, but answers Mary's question? What does this tell you about their posture toward God? How is this instructive for us?
2. How does Mary's belief grow throughout this story? In what way has your belief grown throughout your life? What are the specific catalysts that have deepened your belief in God, in his love for you, in his ability to use you?
3. Read John 1:43-46. What do we know about Nazareth? What do we know about the socio-economic context in which Mary was raised? What is the significance for us in God's choice of Mary to be the mother of the Messiah?
4. Read Romans 9:14-15 and Ephesians 2:1-9. How does it make you feel to be a recipient of God's mercy? Share the different ways you have experienced God's mercy, grace, and favor in your life.
5. What was Mary's response to God's favor in her life? What can we learn from Mary's 'yes' to God? How does the call of Mary to obedience differ from many of today's appeals to faith?
6. In Mary's song (vs. 46-55) what attributes of God are revealed? Of these, which do you appreciate the most? Take time as a GG to demonstrate your gratitude to God by giving him praise and thanks for who he is in your life this Christmas season.