

Series: The Christmas Story

The Calling of Mary

December 2, 2018

1. Luke 1-2: The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= OLezoUvOEq>

2. ²⁶ *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee* ²⁷ *to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.* ²⁸ *The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

3. 1. God initiates. He sends what we need.

2. To us – as everyday people – like Mary.

3. To everyday places – like Bethlehem.

4. ²⁹ *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* ³⁰ *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."*

5. When has God greeted you with a challenge? What was your reaction? How did He abate your fears? What objections did you have? How did God reassure you?

6. What about going to Bible College? What about going into ministry? What about going farther afield?

7. What about this week? Will we go into our week as curious seekers after God's will? Will we minister out of how God has made us and how he has gifted us? Will we simply say yes to those things He calls us to?

8. ³¹ *You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.* ³² *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,* ³³ *and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."* ³⁴ *"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

9. ³⁵ *The angel answered (her question), "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called* ^[a] *the Son of God.* ³⁶ *Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.* ³⁷ *For nothing is impossible with God."* ³⁸

10. Thoughtful. Obedient. Believing. Worshipping. Faithful. This is the posture of everyday people in everyday places who are poised to answer God's call every day and for their entire lives.

CANDLE LIGHTING: Let us then – as we track the Christmas story in Luke through Advent – light this candle today and call it “The Calling of Mary.” And let it represent for us – a chance for us to consider our own callings.

11. Take Home Q: What do you think God might be calling you to during this Christmas season?

An increased focus on Jesus and his birth and what it means?

To simply say YES to something Father-God is asking you?

To take a next step of faith because you believe that God is trustworthy?

A commitment to personal and community worship?

To follow-up on something Father-God has already asked you?