Accepting Your Purpose

Luke 2:26-38 / Matt. 1:19:24 / Proverb 3:5-6

12/12/21

A few weeks ago, I ministered on “Knowing Who You Are”. We looked at how awesome you are to God and how each person has a purpose in this thing called “Life”. I’ve said this before, and I’ll probably say it again, but every person that was, is or will be has a purpose. We’re not just here to take up space and then die. God does not “fearfully & wonderfully” create us and then expect us just to live a few years without fulfilling our purpose in this life.

The purpose that we all have is Divinely given from the one who created us.

* *Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

The Bible is full of men & women who choose or didn’t choose to live out the purpose and the Will of God.

* Example of Jonah
  + Tried to run from it
  + Didn’t quite work out
  + Fulfilled it and belly ached when God explained that He was the One in charge.
* Moses
  + We see the example of Moses telling God he couldn’t be the leader of God’s people because he stuttered. God said OK, I’ll give you your brother to speak, but you lead.

You see, no matter what, God’s Will & Purpose will always come to pass. The awesome thing about that is that He gives each one of us the opportunity to be a part of it, if we “Accept the Purpose”

* *Job 42:2 - “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

It being Dec. 12th and less than 2 weeks from Christmas, we’ll probably hear the story of Jesus’ birth through Christmas songs, different messages, or even movies, but none of that happens if 2 important people didn’t submit and “accept the purpose” God had for them! - Mary & Joseph

**Mary -**

Luke 2:26-38 - ***26****In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,****27****to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.****28****Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you”* ***29****Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.****30****“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “For you have found favor with God!****31****You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.****32****He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.****33****And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”* ***34****Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”* ***35****The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.****36****What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.****37****For the word of God will never fail.”* ***38****Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.*

What did she have to lose?

* Her life as a whole
  + This pregnancy was unplanned by Mary. She was a young woman with no sexual experience. She was "betrothed," like our modern form of engagement, to a man named Joseph. While the two had committed to each other, the formal wedding had not taken place.
  + In that day and culture such a pregnancy out of wedlock held lifelong consequences.
    - Mary was on the verge of becoming a single,
    - unwed mothers consigned to a life of poverty and shame
    - possibly being stoned to death

First-century Israelite society was less forgiving than our modern culture.

* The temptation to say no to this or even during her pregnancy, terminate the pregnancy could have been strong. She had to battle with knowing if she allows the pregnancy & keeps the child growing in her womb, her life was about to be turned upside down.

Yet she accepts her role and says to the angel, **"Let it be to me according to your word".**

Wow! What if we were to say that to the Lord, “I’m not sure about this God, but if you’re asking me or giving me the info about this plan, then I know you’ve got the plan already worked out! So, I’m ALL IN!! **Let it be according to your Word and way!”**

**Joseph -**

Matt.1:19-24

***19****Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagementquietly.* ***20****As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.****21****And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* ***22****All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:* ***23****“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,which means ‘God is with us.’”* ***24****When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.*

What did Joseph have to lose?

* A life of shame, embarrassment, ridicule.
* I guarantee he had some initial doubts and embarrassment.
  + Who’s she been with, and this angel story, what kind of drugs is she on?

Matthew's account tells us He was going to break up the engagement quietly and cancel their upcoming marriage because he did not want to bring embarrassment on the families. But then something happened to him. After an appearance from an angel in a dream as he slept, Joseph accepted that Mary's pregnancy was of God in fulfilment of a divine plan.

* He may not have understood every detail about this insane sounding plan, but he accepted his role.
* By accepting this, his life was forever changed.
  + He accepted responsibility for the life of a son who was not biologically his. Joseph's act was one of the most noble that a man, a true man, can do. He accepted the role of fatherhood in accepting Gods will. What an honor he had in making the decision to walk in God’s purpose.

**Life wasn’t going to “Be Comfortable” but the Angels message to both of them was Fear Not!**

Near the end of the pregnancy, things got uncomfortable. They had to travel to Bethlehem for a Census.

* Ever travelled in a car with a pregnant woman? Mary didn’t have seat warmers and soft cushy seats. She had the back of a donkey.
* Then they get to Bethlehem and are ready to rest and have this baby in a nice comfortable room, only to hear that there were no rooms available in the inns, but they had a barn.
* Working barns aren’t the best place to have a baby.
  + Animals, Smells, Hay (allergies) Feeding troughs, not warm

Luke 2:6-7

*And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.****7****She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

* Because of Mary’s and Josephs willingness to say “Ok God...Let’s do it” we now have the opportunity to be saved and have Life Abundant!
* Because of their love for God and accepted His way, they were granted to live out *Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Gods will, though not easy or even looking successful will always prevail!

* *Proverbs 19:21 - You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.*

I may not know what God has planned, but I know this...His plans NEVER FAIL and that He is with me with in them!

* *Genesis 28:15 - I Am with you and will be with you wherever you go.*

In accepting God’s will and purpose, we must be willing to choose to accept it and then live out *Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

When you’ve accepted the purpose God has for you, and you accept it, then you’ll be prepared for things to become “uncomfortable”.

* Our motto, “Less of me, more of Him” comes with some rough and tough moments, but just as God kept His hand upon Joseph and Mary, protected them from everything that came they’re way, and ultimately used them for the greatest plan known to man....

God will do for you when you say “I Accept Your Purpose for my life, no matter what it is!”