

December 16, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

Message Series: A Journey To Christmas

Today's Message: Mary's Trust: When She Didn't Understand

The Type of Person God Uses:

- 1) God uses people who _____ to do His will.
- 2) God uses people who decide to pay the cost.
- 3) God uses people who _____ to trust His promises.

Truth: So many of you have enormous spiritual potential; God has gifted you, but you _____ it.

* Luke 1:26-38

* **Problem:** So many do not love God first.

1. Learning to _____ God's Plan

* Luke 1:28-30

"Highly Favored" - The angel Gabriel emphasizes to Mary that God's _____ has been poured out on her and that "the Lord is with you."

Mary is "Greatly Troubled" - Having an angel appear and tell you that you are "highly favored" by God is very perplexing and scary, so Gabriel tells her to not be afraid, she has God's favor.

When Confused and Disturbed:

- 1) Realize _____ is often the birth pangs of deepening faith
- 2) Be ready to live with mystery: Mary was troubled; Mary wondered.
- 3) "Doubt is the bridge that connects current faith with a perfecting faith."

* "Let not the things I'm uncertain of, rob me of the things I am certain." ~Bacon

2. Overcoming The _____

Luke 1:29, 30, 34 "Mary was greatly troubled and wondered... But the angel said... "Do not be afraid... How will this be, Mary asked... since I am a virgin?"

Possible _____:

- 1) Fear of criticism—"What will everyone think?"
- 2) Fear of supernatural—"What will happen to me?"
- 3) Fear of inadequacy—"How can I handle this?"
- 4) Fear of change—"How will this change my life?"

Mary's Trust: When she didn't understand, she didn't give in to doubt.

Our Part: We don't have to understand; our part is to trust.

3. Living Out God's Power and Presence

Luke 1:35, 37, 38 *"The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you... For nothing is impossible with God... I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered."*

"Overshadow" - the holy, powerful presence of God; God's mighty presence was sufficient to sustain Mary.

Reality: Only God's power could do this miracle in Mary, and it was difficult for her to comprehend.

Mary's Response: Luke 1:46-48 *"My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because He has shown His concern for His humble servant girl."*

Mary Did Not: Use excuses—"I'm too busy" ... "This isn't convenient" ... "Can You get somebody else?"

Luke 2:19 *"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them."*

* Mary had a listening ear, she stayed tuned into God.

* **A Wise Question:** "God, what do You want to do with my life today?"