

Preparation For His Coming: Mary

First Sunday in Advent 2010, New Vision, Luke 1:26-38

I. Life-shaking announcement

26 *In the sixth month, 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." 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. 31 You will be with child...*

A. **God: "Yes, I'm speaking to you!"**

B. **God: "I'm going to use you."**

II. The focus: Jesus

31...and you are to give him the name Jesus. (Yahweh saves cf Mt 1:21 for he will save his people from their sins.) 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 the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

A. **A rescuer:**

B. **Son of Most High, King**

III. Her response in preparation: I am the Lord's servant

34 *"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

A. **Mary: "I don't have what it takes"**

B. **God's Answer: "I do"**

35 *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called 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 barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."*

38 *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

C. **Mary: "I'm Yours"**

1. Handmaid, slave, δούλη
2. As you say

IV. Me. Our turn, our preparation

A. **Jesus, Savior, Son of the Most High, King forever**

B. **I'm Yours, completely.**

Discussion-starting questions:

1. Why would Mary be scared *before* the announcement?
2. Why would Mary be scared *after* the announcement?
3. In what ways is Mary a model for us?
4. How does Mary's story help us prepare to be present with Jesus?

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