

*Living on the Right
Side of History*

PASTOR MIKE YODER • LUKE 1:26-56



**Blessed are those who find
favor in the fulfillment
of God's promises.**



Divine Favor: God shows His
grace to Mary. (1:26–30)



In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

Luke 1:26

to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.”





A sunset over a large body of water, likely the Sea of Galilee. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. A small boat is visible in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

Israel Trip

March 30–April 10, 2022

***The 34TH Annual Comprehensive Biblical
Tour of the Holy Land: Israel & Petra***

Hosted by Pastor Bob Fetterhoff

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When it comes to Mary, people tend to go to one of two extremes. They either magnify her so much that Jesus takes second place, or they ignore her and fail to give her the esteem she deserves.

Warren Wiersbe

Divine Forecast: God shows His glory through Jesus. (1:31–33)



“You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you are to call Him Jesus.”

Luke 1:31

*“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,”*

Luke 1:32

“and He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His Kingdom will never end.”

If John the Baptist comes from a priestly line, and is connected with preparing the way for the Lord, this Jesus comes from a kingly line, from the line of David. He will introduce the long-expected Kingdom of God and He will reign forever...

D.A. Carson

He will be called the Son of God. Sometimes “Son of God” language was used for every Davidic king. But this Davidic king eclipses all of them. His birth is miraculous.

Human Bewilderment: Mary
struggles to comprehend
God's plan. (1:34–37)



“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:34

The angel answered, “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 the Son of God.”

“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.”

Luke 1:36

“For no word from God will ever fail.”

Luke 1:37

Christianity may have never been unfamiliar to you. But if you have never stood and looked at the Gospel and found it ridiculous, impossible, inconceivable, I don't think you have really understood it.

Tim Keller

We don't have to stumble at Jesus's deity and humanity. The angel assures Mary and assures us, "Nothing will be impossible with God." The moment you admit the existence of God, you must deny the impossible.

Thabiti Anyabwile

Human Belief: Mary chooses
to embrace God's plan. (1:38)



“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38

The only way a person can genuinely say what Mary says is to believe that God's plan is better than our plans for ourselves.

Thabiti Anyabwile

Divine Blessing: God confirms
His good plan to Mary. (1:39–45)



At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,

Luke 1:39

where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:40

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:41

In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Child you will bear!”

Luke 1:42

“But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Luke 1:43

“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.”

Luke 1:44

*“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill
His promises to her!”*

Luke 1:45

...the fact that the...
...the fact that the...
...the fact that the...



Nazareth



Bethlehem







Christian faith is not a negotiation but a surrender. It means to take your hands off your life. So surrender to Him, and don't underestimate what He can do in and through you, if you put yourself in His hands.

Tim Keller

Mary's Song: Mary confirms her
strong trust in God. (1:46–56)



Kneeling beside the manger is a girl of no status or means who said “yes” to a divine summons to be a part of the central event in all of history...

John Stonestreet

When confronted with the profound and unexpected gift of being mother to Christ, she accepted. Because of her obedience, our burdens are lifted.

John Stonestreet

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is His name.”

Luke 1:46-55

“His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.”

Luke 1:46–55

“He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors.”

Luke 1:46–55

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:56

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