

Nothing is Impossible with God

“Do not be afraid” is the most repeated command in the Bible. God said it to Abraham, He said it to Joshua, and Jesus said it to His disciples. But in the Christmas story, God chose a unique way to deliver this message to three people navigating a unique situation. What can we learn from the Messenger?



INTRODUCTION

God did the seemingly impossible when he caused Mary, a virgin, to conceive His Son. The messenger told her not to be afraid despite her questions, and she submitted to God's plan. From this story, we know that nothing is impossible with God and sometimes He rewrites our scripts according to His plan.

STARTER QUESTION

Can you think of a time when God rewrote your script? What did that entail and how do you know it was God? Is God rewriting a script in your life now?

INTO THE WORD

1. The angel Gabriel reminds Mary of who she is: fully known and favored by the Lord. Read Exodus 33:17 and Luke 1:26-38. Consider what it means to be “favored by God.” How is the world's concept of being “favored” different from the Lord's definition? Why is this important to keep in mind as a follower of Jesus?
2. Read Psalm 32:1-2 and Matthew 5:3-12. What do these verses say about the character of those whom God blesses? How can we be blessed and be a blessing to those whom God puts in our lives?

APPLICATION

3. Pastor David began his message by sharing God's command, “Do not be afraid.” The Lord said this to Abraham and Joshua, and Jesus said this to His disciples. God chose a unique way to deliver the same reassuring message to Mary when the angel Gabriel visited her. As a betrothed young lady (likely only 12-14 years of age), the Lord showed Mary grace before sharing more information with her. He was preparing her for what He would tell her and what was to come. Looking back on your life, has there been a time when God was clearly preparing you for a situation that was yet to come? In what specific ways is He showing you undeserved grace, unmerited love, and providing wisdom or reassurance as you face the future?
4. Despite questioning God and likely feeling confusion about conceiving the Son of God, Mary trusts God and submits to His authority. Mary shows love toward God as she obeys the command, “Do not be afraid.” She puts aside her doubts and submits to God's plan or “script rewrite”. She believed God for the impossible. Name a few ways you can love God back by submitting to His loving authority in your life. What steps can you take in your daily life to be more open to how the Lord may “rewrite your life's script”?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come to You today amazed that You caused a virgin to give birth to Your Son. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, as You love us so much that You sent Your only begotten Son. Lord, we know that nothing is impossible with You. Even as You rewrite the script of our lives and we may question You, we pray that we would have faith like Mary to trust in Your plan without fear. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Question 1:

As people living in this world, we can sometimes feel like someone else is favored over us. We may get the false impression that others are more important or valuable than we are because of skills, education, looks or accomplishments. This is not how God sees His children (Romans 2:6-11). He does not look at our outward appearance, but at our heart (1 Samuel 16:7). God has a plan for your precious life! In unmerited love and by undeserved grace, He chose you for a purpose and for His glory. You are chosen and favored by God, just as He chose Mary for accomplishing what man would consider impossible (Colossians 3:12 and 1 Peter 2:9).

Question 2:

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit. (Psalm 32: 1-2)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5: 3-11)

As discussed in the first question, we are chosen by God and are favored by God. God loves and blesses His children and when we extend the same kind of love to others, we honor God by fulfilling His command to love our neighbors. (Matthew 22: 36-40)

Question 4:

Jeremiah 29:11 speaks of God's plan for your life and how He has your welfare, your future, and your eternal hope in mind. He seeks to bless us and direct our path if we look to Him in trust and submit to His ways (Proverbs 3:5-6). When we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, He saves us from sin, gives us the gift of eternal life and welcomes us into His forever family (John 3:16 and Romans 8:1). As a follower of Jesus and His beloved child, we can surrender our life to Him as Mary did. We will then experience His abundant love and grace each day, through the power of the Holy Spirit in our heart, as He continually transforms us to be more like Christ. Throughout our life, we do not need to be afraid as we trust Him to rewrite our life to His glory and for our good (Romans 8:28-30). Praise the Lord!

In one word – TRUST. The biggest step you can take is to trust God.