

SERMON: A Great Announcement

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:26-35

Introduction: Many announcements have brought fear to the hearts of mankind. Examples are: when a state of war is declared, a storm is approaching or an epidemic of disease is made known. But what a glorious announcement when the angel of the Lord told Mary that she was to bear the Son of God.

1. MARY HAD FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD

- a. It is well to note the character of women to whom this great announcement was made. Her response to this announcement is described in Luke 1"46-55.
- b. Again we had an insight to the character of Mary in Cana of Galilee. (John 2:11)
- c. She was a concerned mother when Jesus was missing at the age of twelve. (Luke 2:1)
- d. We find her loyal to her son even to the hour of His death. (John 19"25)
- e. After the death of Jesus we find her with the other disciples in the Upper Room. (Acts 1:14)

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TOLD OF "JESUS"

- a. His name caused:
 - i. Anger to arise in the hearts of religious leaders
 - ii. Fear to be felt in political circles
 - iii. Guilt to leap forth in the heart of the sinner
 - iv. Devotion to be apparent in the hearts of his disciples
- b. Because of His name:
 - i. Satan has lost his authority
 - ii. Forgiveness for sin is free to all
 - iii. Happiness and inward peace is provided

3. GOD'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO YOU

- a. It is well for every individual to realize that the announcement of God came to an individual and was then spread to the multitude.
- b. Even so, God's announcement of the Christ Child is made to all of us personally.
 - i. By the preaching of the Word of God
 - ii. By the prayers and the lives of our Christian friends

Conclusion: The annunciation is one of the beautiful stories in the Bible. It ought to be made to live again in the hearts of all at Christmas time.