

December 9, 2018

Luke 1:26-38

Angels Among Us: #DoNotBeAfraid

Flying in the Face of Fear at Advent

“Nothing is Impossible: #more peace

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Last week, we saw Zechariah’s response to the angel announcing that he and his wife were to have a child. His response, “But, I am old.” The angel Gabriel’s response, “But, I am Gabriel”. Zechariah went home and several months later – “the old man got proof that he was going to be a father, for his wife was now pregnant. His initial freaking out turned to hope, and then hope brought new life.

This week, we will look at the angel coming to Mary; Mary’s response? She was perplexed. Not a freak out for sure, despite she didn’t see this coming, for Peter sake or should we say, “For Christ’s sake, she wasn’t even married and had never been with a man!” This was not in her playbook. All was going well, she was engaged and wedding planning had begun. It was all she had ever dreamed about, and then comes this! Being pregnant before being married, and it isn’t even Joseph’s baby.

Yet, she could be heard to say just a few moments after the angelic sonogram revelation, “Let It Be So.” How could she be so calm? How could she be so open? How could she be so trusting?

Could it be that she realized her child was God’s child, aren’t they all! That in it all, God not only had a plan for her, but a plan for a her child as well, and even a plan for the world and that God could be trusted in this, just like she had trusted God

in the past. So, she knew all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

She did not know what we have to come to know; that she would be bearing One who was going to be love incarnate, who would serve rather than want to be served, who would bring light to those overshadowed by darkness, and peace to those battling that which threatened to destroy them, and yes, joy, joy to the whole world.

What Mary chose to focus on is what made all the difference. She chose to focus on God, not on the possible fall-out, not on what society said about her and hers, not on what might happen due to all this, nor did she lie down and say, "Woe, is me."

Instead, she said, "Let It Be So". Which is the same as saying, "Ok, I will trust you. I will cooperate with all you are doing, I will do my part and leave the rest to you."

What is it like for us when we get news that is life altering? Are we perplexed, are we curious? Or do we say, "No, no, no" and live in denial of our current reality? Do we say, "Hey, I'm not up for this", "I can't handle this", "I don't want this in my life", "This is bad, so bad. "Oh my, my life is ruined."

Or maybe the reason Mary was perplexed was because such an incredible message came to a common girl barely a woman? It was a foretelling about her purpose in life. To which she simply replied, "Let it be so."

For you, is there current struggle to find your purpose and be at peace with it? Are you yearning for more peace in your life and relationships? She had a plan for her common life, yet God

wasn't willing to let her settle for less than the fullness of God in her life. God wanted her to feel a reason for being and doing that was wider and deeper than societal norms. God wanted her to be the One that changed the world through her willingness to be the very vessel of God bringing forth the Prince of Peace that was within her, so that peace and goodwill could come to all.

Can we say our own version of "Let it be so", and say "okay, I'm up for what's next." Can we say, I willingly take on God's purpose for my life and agree to be the bearer of God to the world? Are we as common men and women willing to take a plan for our lives, much deeper and wider than we ever imagined. Are we willing to do part by sharing the peace we know within. If so, then know that this time of year may be the most exciting time of your life. #DoNotBeAfraid.