

Advent Week 2 – Luke 1:37-38 (ESV)

Ask the Lord to give you an understanding of His word today and to show you how you might apply it to your faith walk.

Read the passage noted above.

The angel Gabriel, sent by the Lord had just told Mary:

- O favored one, the Lord is with you (1:28)
- Do not be afraid (1:29)
- You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus (1:31)
- He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end (32-33)

Mary also asked Gabriel, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” (34)

- He replied, The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. (35)

Gabriel finished His message in verse 37, what did he say?

Look at the following cross-references and note who the speaker is and what he said.

Genesis 18:13-14

Job 42:1-2

Jeremiah 32:17, 27

Matthew 19:26

According to the Oxford Dictionary the word “nothing” means:

Not anything; no single thing

Do you really believe that God in his superiority can do anything?

Look at creation

Look at people and realize each one has a has different DNA

Look at Jesus’s resurrection

It is vital to often take time to reflect on who God is and what he has done in order to be prepare for the next time an “impossible” comes in life. Mary embraced the truth “nothing will be impossible with God.” Her genuine faith and trust in Him was evident.

Mary was a peasant Jewish girl, perhaps as young as in her early teens. She would have been familiar with the prophesy of the coming Messiah but she never thought she would be his mother. Two thousand years ago, an unmarried pregnant engaged woman would have been the subject of much talk and could have been stoned to death. God knew that Mary would accept the call and would go on to witness her son’s death on a cross to save her and others from their sins.

What is revealed about Mary in her statement in verse 38?

The following are the different translations of Mary’s declaration of being a servant of the Lord:

“I am the servant of the Lord” (ESV)

“the bond-slave of the Lord” (NASB)

“the Lord’s slave” (HCSB)

“the handmaid of the Lord” (KJV)

“the maidservant of the Lord” (NIV)

What is your understand of her view of herself from these different translations?

What glimpse do you get of her heart from these phrases?

Should believers today have this same view of themselves towards the Lord and what is necessary for such a disposition to be genuine?

Verse 38 makes note that the “angel departed from her.”

Today, most of us as believers will not have an “angel” experience like Mary’s. Why? Because we have the full counsel of of God’s word which reveals His will for our lives. As believers we should surrender our lives to what God commands. May we say as Mary said, “let it be to me according to your word.”

Spend some time with the Lord today in response to these verses. Ask him to increase your faith if you are having a hard time believing that all things are possible for Him. Ask him to pinpoint things, if there are any in your life, that are keeping you from being a willing and trusting servant of his. Repent and ask him for the grace to live as his servant. Ask God to give you an opportunity to share the truth of these verses with someone in the days to come.

Meditate on these verses this week.