



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 10 & 11, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "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. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant^[1] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In our passage today, we have the announcement of the greatest birth in history by the angel Gabriel, to the virgin Mary. It is a declaration of the incarnation - that the Son of God, God Himself, would be conceived as a human child. The choice

of the poor humble virgin Mary to carry the Savior of the world is typical of God's way to exalt the humble and oppose the proud. It also exhibits the fact that nothing is impossible with God. Mary's beautiful godly submission to the will of God reveals her character and provides an example for all Christians to follow.

Discussion Questions

1. In the birth announcement of the Son of God, the angel Gabriel extols to Mary the greatness of her soon to be child. Her baby will be the long awaited Messiah, whose promised coming was foretold centuries before. God has chosen to bring His only begotten Son into the world through a poor humble virgin who lives in a very humble town called Nazareth. Why do you think God would do this? What does this tell you about God and the kinds of things He values?
2. In Jesus' birth through the humble virgin Mary (the "favored one"), God is choosing to exalt the lowly and lift up the humble. What do you learn from this passage about how God views human wealth, power, prestige and popularity? How should this impact the way you live your life?
3. Can a person be both great and humble? Describe what you think this would look like.
4. The miracle of the incarnation is that the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and the power of the Most High overshadowed her in such a way, that the child to be born would be called holy - the Son of God. Why do you think the Savior of the world had to be both human and divine? Why did God have to become a man in order to save us? What does this tell you about the depth, and breadth, and height of God's love for you and me?
5. We see in v.38 Mary's beautiful and godly submission to the Word of God. In spite of the impending scandal and uncertain future because of her pregnancy before marriage, she willingly submits herself to the will of God. She trusted in God even when she couldn't see how any of this would work out. What do you think helped Mary to respond with such faith and trust?

How does Mary's faith and submission to God's will help you to trust and believe in God?