



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Advent: The Surprising Call of Mary

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.
(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In today's scripture, we see Mary giving God access to her life – full access to her entire life. The goal of healthy spirituality is to give access to God so that God can do in us and through us what the world really needs. God is looking for full access to our lives, which is what we see in the life of Mary.

The story of scripture is one where God has a way of interrupting the lives of those in scripture. God's interruptions are very often interventions longing to take us into a new trajectory, a new life, and a new hope.

It doesn't matter how young or old you are, God will interrupt you. God doesn't only use those who are older for his will, but he also uses those who are young for his kingdom. God is a multi-generational God, using people of all ages and in all stages of their lives. God loves to interrupt and adjust the trajectory of our lives.

The Holy Spirit wants to overshadow you and invite you into a bigger story. We are all longing to be part of a bigger story, something that is bigger than ourselves.

We are called to look at Mary's life and imitate her: **Mary has curiosity and humility.**

The first woman (Eve) was suspicious of God and took control.
The second woman (Mary) surrendered to God and relinquished control.

Because Eve was suspicious, she took control and closed herself off from God. In Mary's surrender to God a new trajectory is created for her life, in her "yes" a new future was made possible, and humanity was positioned for salvation.

God wants access to your life, your entire life, to allow God to frame and form your life in the way of his kingdom.

God loves us with an everlasting love. We say yes to God because he said yes to us first in Christ Jesus.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series on Advent. Pastor Rich explores the surprising ways that God encounters Mary and how God encounters and invites us to be part of his bigger story.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Being honest with yourself, have you given God access to your life - your entire life? Or are you closing off certain parts of your life from God? Take time this week to offer your answers to these questions up to God asking for forgiveness where you might need it and courage to give God full access to those areas that you have closed off from him.
3. Has God ever interrupted the plans that you have for your life? These interruptions are a way for God to gain access to our lives and take us on a new trajectory, where we become part of a greater story and participate in the healing of the world. Does hearing this help you gain a better perspective and understanding when God interrupts your life? Journal your answers to these questions.
4. Are you closing off yourself from God? Maybe you are caught up with your own plans, goals, values, and achievements? Instead of looking to take control in these areas of your life, can you begin to become curious asking God what he might want to do in these areas of your life? Offer those closed off places in your life to God, asking for clarity on how he can use these for his glory?
5. Can you begin to humble yourself before God? Instead of looking at your life and only seeing your inconsistencies and struggles, can you offer yourself to God asking for him to show you what is possible? We see in the Bible time and time again God using people who are broken and sinful and God can use your life no matter what your past may look like or what type of struggles you might be dealing with right now. Ask God for strength to humble yourself before him.