

Series: Discover Jesus This Christmas; Sermon: **What Mary Discovered**
delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on December 20, 2020

Bible text explored: Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. [ESV]

Review and application:

The focus of the Christmas season for our culture is nostalgic tradition and sentiment. But the biblical record on which it is based is consistently factual. This is demonstrated by the human authors' research and by the celestial messengers' announcement of God's unfolding plan.

1. The writing of *Luke*—his Gospel and the Book of Acts—bulks up to a quarter of the New Testament. What training, service, and approach was behind the record Luke produced? (See *Colossians 4:14*, *Philemon 1:24*, *Luke 1:1-4*, and *Acts 1:1-3*.)

Angels are popularly viewed as winged fairies. How are they described biblically? (See *1 Chronicles 21:30* and *Luke 1:11-13*; *2:9-10*; *24:4-6*.)

2. What about Gabriel calling her a favored person (*verses 26-29*) disturbed and confused Mary?

What about God's grace (unmerited favor) to us, should also disturb us? (See *John 1:27*; *Luke 7:6-7*.)

Have you experienced that grace?

3. Was Mary's response to Gabriel's announcement (*verses 30-34*) a legitimate information-seeking question, or one based on disbelief? (See *Luke 1:11-13*, *18-20*.)

4. How did Gabriel's response (*verses 35-36*) highlight God's power to override what is scientifically "possible"?

To what historic divine intervention did his last sentence (*verse 37*) refer? (See *Genesis 18:9-15* and *Hebrews 1:11-12*.)

How (*1 Timothy 3:16*) did Paul describe this intervention as an element of God's eternal plan?

Have you experienced the power of the Spirit in your life?

5. What did Mary's response (*verse 38*) say about her readiness to serve in God's assigned role for her?

Do you pray about serving according to God's word as he reveals it to you?