JOY: God Uses the Willing

Luke 1:26-56/Psalm 98

Sunday, December 8, 2019

AVBC 10:30 am

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.” – Luke 1:38

4 typical ways to respond to Good News

☐ ________________

☐ ________________

☐ ________________

☐ ________________

1) Mary’s Surprise (vs. 26-33)

☐ Who is Mary? (vs. 26-27)

☐ Not too insignificant to be noticed by God (vs. 28-30)

☐ Afraid, Confused, Distressed

☐ What God is asking of a teenager (vs. 31-33)

☐ Matthew 1:18-25

☐ Do you remember finding out about your first child?

☐ Best Gender Reveal ever!

2) Mary’s Surrender (vs. 34-38)

“For no word from God shall be void of power.” – Luke 1:37 (ASV)

☐ Mary’s Faith (vs. 34-37)

Experienced God’s Grace, Believed God’s Word, Followed God’s Will.

☐ Mary’s Willingness “Isaiah Moment” (vs. 38)


3) Mary’s JOY (vs. 46-56)

☐ Mary REJOICES in the Lord (vs. 46-48)

– 1 Samuel 2:1-10 parallels

☐ Mary sees her BLESSING (vs. 48-49)

☐ God’s MERCY is for all (vs 50)

☐ Mary has confidence in God’s PROMISES (vs. 51-55)

(Mary is faithful to her family - vs. 56)

A Song of JOY = Psalm 98

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Some of these questions adapted from “Exalting Jesus in Luke” by Thabiti Anyabwile

Q1: Do you see any of the four responses to Good News in your own life?

Q2: What do the miraculous pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth teach us about the power of God? About how God works in the world?

Q3: Does the fact that Christ came into the world through normal childbirth change your view of pregnancy and children or sanctity of life? How so?

Q4: What character traits can be seen in Mary’s response to the angel?

Q5: Describe a time when you struggled to believe a promise of God?

Q6: Read the “Isaiah Moment” verses. Is God calling you to something right now? How have you positively/negatively responded to God in the past?

Q7: How can you praise God right now for an as yet fulfilled promise or aspect of His work that you don’t yet understand?

Q8: Read Psalm 98. What do you have to “Shout For Joy” for today?