

I. Introduction.

II. God chooses to work through ordinary people. v. 26-30

- A. Mary was an ordinary girl from an ordinary city. v. 26-27 John 1:46**
- 1. God wisely chooses Mary who is a virgin who is betrothed to Joseph who is a son of David. v. 27 Mt. 1:1ff**
 - 2. Jesus' birth to a lowly mother reflects the humiliation He endures to save sinners. Phil. 2:6ff Mark 10:45**
- B. The angel Gabriel greets Mary. v. 28-30 Mt. 26:46 27:29 Eph. 1:6 Gen. 26:24 28:15 Ex. 3:12 Jer. 1:8 Acts 18:9-10**
- C. The angelic greeting to Mary has been horribly misunderstood and misused.**
- 1. "Hail Mary" is a greeting, not a prayer addressed to Mary.**
 - 2. "Full of grace" refers to Mary as an object (recipient) of grace, a divinely favored person, not a person with grace to bestow. 1:28,30 Eph. 1:6 Acts 6:8**
 - 3. Mary, like the rest of us, is a sinner who needs God's grace. 1:47 Ro. 3:23 Ps. 51:5**
 - 4. We are not to pray to Mary (as co-mediatrix) or any other "saint" because Jesus is the sole mediator between God and men. 1 Tim. 2:5 Heb. 2:14-17 4:14-16 7:25**
 - 5. The veneration (or worship) of Mary is idolatrous. 4:8 Acts 10:25-26 Ex. 20:4ff**
- D. The improper exaltation of Mary by some should not stop us from appreciating her humble faithfulness to God. v. 42,38**
- E. God still brings His good news to the humble. 1:48 Js. 4:6 1 Pe. 5:5 1 Co. 1:26-31 Ps. 138:6 Isa. 57:15**

III. Mary's son Jesus will be exceedingly great. v. 31-33

- A. You will conceive and bear a son. v. 31,13**
- 1. This alludes to Old Testament promises. Gen. 16:11 3:15 Jdg. 13:3 Isa. 7:14 Mt. 1:21-23**
 - 2. His name will be Jesus (Savior). 1:47,71,74,77 2:11 19:10 Mt. 1:21 John 1:29**
- B. He will possess unlimited greatness. v. 32a Isa. 9:6-7 Mic. 5:4 Eph. 1:21 Rev. 1:13-16**
- 1. His greatness will surpass that of John and the angels. v. 15 John 1:27 Heb. 1:4ff**
 - 2. His greatness will be worshiped by all. Phil. 2:9-11 Isa. 45:23**
 - 3. Such greatness can only be ascribed to God. John 12:41 Isa. 6:1ff 53:12 Col. 2:9**
 - 4. The rest of Luke's gospel will display His greatness. 4:16-21,32,36 8:25,49-56**
 - 5. He came veiling His greatness. We seek to exaggerate our greatness. 9:48 22:24-27**
- C. He will be called the Son of the Most High. v. 32b,76**
- 1. This title parallels His title as the Son of God. v. 35 Ps. 2:7 89:26 2 Sam. 7:14**
 - 2. How is Jesus' Sonship different from ours? 9:35 John 1:12-13 Ro. 8:15 Gal. 4:6**
 - 3. How is the Trinity revealed in this passage? v. 35 3:22**
- D. He will reign on David's throne forever. v. 32c-33 1:68ff 3:31 18:39 19:38**
- 1. He is the promised Messiah, the Son of David. v. 32c Acts 2:30 Rev. 5:5 Is. 11:1ff Jer. 23:5-6 2 Sa. 7:12ff 1 Chr. 17:11-14 Ps. 89:20ff Eze. 34:24 37:24 Ro. 1:3-4**
 - 2. His reign, unlike other kings, will be everlasting and universal. v. 33 Mic. 4:7 2 Sam. 7:13-14,16 Ps. 89:29,35-36 Isa. 9:7 Dan. 2:44 7:14**

IV. The Son will be conceived by the almighty power of God. v. 34-37

- A. Mary asks how she can have a child without the involvement of a man. v. 34 Gen. 4:1
1. How does her response differ from that of Zacharias? v. 18
 2. While there was Old Testament precedent for what happened to Zacharias and Elizabeth, what is about to happen to Mary has never happened before. Gen. 21
 3. Mary is describing her present situation, not making a vow of perpetual virginity. 8:19-21 Mt. 1:25 Heb. 13:5 Mt. 12:46 John 7:3,5 Gal. 1:19 1 Tim. 4:3
 4. Mary sets an example of godliness for us – remaining sexually pure before marriage (and even during engagement). Heb. 13:5
- B. This child will be conceived by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. v. 34
1. The Most High will overshadow you. Gen. 1:2 Acts 1:8 Ex. 40:34-38 Nu. 9:18,22
 2. The Spirit is active throughout Jesus' ministry. 3:21-22,38 4:1,3,9,14,18 Rom. 1:4 Heb. 9:14 1 Pet. 3:18 John 14:17 Mt. 1:18,21 Ps. 104:30 Ezek. 37:9
 3. There is no detail given as to how this takes place – it is a mystery. Deut. 29:29
 4. He will be called the Son of God. 4:3 8:28 Mt. 26:63f 27:32 Mark 15:29 Heb. 1:2
 5. Jesus is fully God. John 1:1ff 20:28 Col. 2:9 1:15-17 Heb. 1:3
 6. Jesus is fully man. John 1:14 Heb. 2:14,17 10:5 Phil. 2:6-8 Gal. 4:4
 7. He is holy (set apart/sinless). 1 Pet. 1:19 Heb. 7:25-28
 8. It was necessary that He be fully God, fully man and perfectly holy in order to accomplish His mission of salvation. 2:30 Mt. 1:21 Jo. 1:29 Heb. 2:14-17 9:13-14
- C. Nothing is impossible for God. v. 36-37 18:27 Ps. 115:3 Job. 42:2 Zech. 8:6 Jer. 32:17 Eph. 1:19 3:20 Mt. 17:20 Gen. 18:14
1. Elizabeth's pregnancy is a confirming sign. v. 36-37
 2. Must you affirm the virgin birth in order to be saved?
 3. How can we apply this verse? 18:24-27 2 Tim. 1:12
- D. Mary submits to God's Word. v. 38 Rom. 4:20-21
1. Why did this take exceptional faith? Deut. 22:23ff Mt. 1:19 John 8 Heb. 11:1,6 Ex. 4:13 Jg. 6:15 Jer. 1:6
 2. When might you be called upon to exercise faith like this?
 3. You can have the same kind of relationship to Jesus. 8:19-21 11:27-28

V. Concluding applications.

- A. Have you experienced a miraculous Spiritual birth? John 1:12-13 3:3,6 1 Cor. 12:13 Rom. 8:16 Js. 1:18 1 Pe. 1:23
- B. Are you prepared to follow the Lord wherever He directs you? John 6:29

Discussion questions

1. How is God's wisdom displayed in His choice of Mary?
2. How do some twist the meaning of Gabriel's greeting to Mary?
3. Why is it wrong to pray to Mary?
4. How should we view Mary? How is she a good example to us?
5. How is the Trinity revealed in this passage?
6. How does the greatness of Jesus surpass that of John?
7. What must be true of Jesus if He is to be our Savior?
8. Must one believe in the literal virgin conception and birth in order to be saved?
What would you say to someone who denies the virgin birth?
9. How does verse 37 apply in your life?
10. Are you holding back in your submission to God's will in certain areas? v. 38
What do you plan to do to change this?