

A Christmas Perspective
Matthew 1:19-25 & Luke 1:26-38

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12/04/22

I. A mother's perspective. Luke 1:26-37

God chose an ordinary girl for an _____ miracle.

- God shows each of us favor and blessings in many ways; but, we become _____ the moment we accept Jesus' free gift of Salvation by faith! **John 1:11-12**

II. Mary's extraordinary response. Luke 1:38

Mary willingly _____ to the Lord's will for her life.

- Once you choose to follow the Lord with every part of your being; your life will never be the same and your life will become _____.

III. Joseph's perspective. Matthew 1:18-19

What do you do when you get hit with life's disappointments? Do you seek the Lord or do you rely on your own _____ wisdom?

- **Luke 1:39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with _____, to a city of Judah,**

"Discernment is not simply a matter of telling the difference between what is right and wrong; rather it is the difference between right and _____ right." (Spurgeon)

IV. The Lord's solution. Matthew 1:20-25

Just like Mary, Joseph doesn't _____ to obey the Lord; he knew what the right thing to do was, and he did it.

Personally: *Am I willing to obey God by taking _____ action, once He reveals His will to me?*

V. Practical Application.

- We need to wait to _____ God's will before we act.
- We need to trust God; His ways of doing things are much better than our ways.
- We need to learn that _____ following God's plans, always leads to the blessing.
- The Lord will never direct us, without _____ us to do the task.
- The Lord has a _____ for each one of us.

The Lord desires that we come to Him for salvation and make Him the focus and _____ of our lives as we follow Him.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Luke 1:26-37**. *What perspective would you have if you were in Mary's position? How hard is it to trust the Lord in situations that seem impossible?*
Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, Philippians 4:13, Matthew 17:20
2. Read **Luke 1:28**. *How can we be called favored by the Lord?*
John 1:11-12, Ephesians 2:4-7, Romans 10:9-10, Psalm 84:11, Esther 2:8-9
3. Read **Luke 1:38**. *Discuss Mary's response. How was her faith extraordinary? Does her response make her favored before the Lord, or does her response prove what was already in her?*
Hebrews 11:1-6
4. Read **Matthew 1:18-19**. *What were the two options Joseph was considering once he heard the news of Mary's pregnancy? Discuss the differences between the sins of commission and the sins of omission.*
1 John 2:16, James 4:17
5. Read **Matthew 1:18-19**. *What do you do when you get hit with life's disappointments? Do you seek the Lord or do you rely on your own human wisdom?*
Proverbs 3:5-6, James 3:17, Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 16:16, Isaiah 55:9
6. Read **Luke 1:38-40, 56**. *Why did Mary depart so quickly after hearing the angel's proclamation? Why did Mary stay with Elizabeth for three months?*
7. Read **Matthew 1:20-25**. *What was the Lord's solution to Mary's condition?*
8. Discuss the practical application of this sermon.