

Dec 16th 2007: Nothing is Impossible: Luke 1:26-38

She was just a young teenage girl...living in...the small village of Nazareth....small nation...of
In her culture her life was absolutely predicted
Her marriage was already arranged.....She would mother children who themselves....
She would never be known beyond her family and her village

That all changed...the day that one of God's most prominent angels....Gabriel....

Luke 1:28 *"The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured!
The Lord is with you."*

Now we have no idea what the angel looked like

But we do know that when he appeared to Zechariah (a priest of some years)...
"he was startled and was gripped with fear."

So we can understand that Marywas afraid.....alarmedwondering what it all meant

Then the angel spoke again: v30—33

*"Do not be afraid, Mary, →knew her name ←
you have found favour →not earned favour ←
with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, →only thing she heard ←
and you are to give Him the name Jesus. 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob
forever; His kingdom will never end."*

And she knew that such a thing was impossible

But consider Mary's response carefully: v34

"How will this be, since I have not known a man?"

Mary lived in a society that believed in angels.....She would have heard the stories from the OT...
She knew they existed.....She knew that what they said came to pass

So her question doesn't suggest doubt

But simply seeks clarification on how it would happen.....**seeing she is a virgin**

And the angel tells her: 35-37

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

That's how it will happen Mary

And then...because God knew how fragile we humans are.....He gave Mary a confirming sign
A sign that straight after the angel had left.....she hurried to check out !!!

“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Some read this passage and say.....But hasn't God set certain rules for our world.....
Rules of nature that can't be broken.....Such as virgins not being able
And of course God has.....And God mainly chooses to work within them

But because He is God He can choose to work outside them.....when He needs to
So He parted the Red sea for Moses.....**Stopped** the sun for Joshua.....**Sent** it backwards for Hezekiah
Wrote on the wall in the time of Daniel...**Calmed** the sea and made 5.....feed over 5,000.....thro His Son
And He caused a young virgin to conceive and bear a son

For NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

I doubt that Mary realised.....but that statement had a huge amount of OT history surrounding it

It goes back to Genesis 18

To a time when the Lord appeared in the guise of three strangers to Abraham.....told him that he &

- **And Sarah** who was ears-dropping laughed.....For she was old

And the Lord said to Abraham in Genesis 18: 13-14

“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord?’”

And Jeremiah also.....**After** being told by God.....that even tho His people would go into exile

The time would come when once again they would be a Nation with Jerusalem

He prayed.....as recorded in 32:17

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

And then straightaway the Lord responded to Jeremiah and said to him in v27

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

And the answer is of course.....NO

Something so clearly seen.....in the Christmas story.....where a child was born to a virgin.....

And then in the Easter Story....where that child now a man.....the Son of God.....Died then..

- **Last week**.....mentioned that Christmas Shows us that God is a Promise Keeping God
Well today.....Christmas and all that followed....**Shows**.....that nothing is Too hard for God

It is not too hard for God to forgive you your sins.....to take away your guilt....save from Judgment
To rescue you
It is not impossible for Him.....to welcome you into His forever family.....as a much loved..

- **But though it was not too hard**.....It was still extremely costly
For the One born of a virgin.....was no other than God the Son.....who existed before....
Who.....as Philippians 2:6-8

“Being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

It’s because of that great cost.....

That Those who turn to God through Jesus.....need to give Him the same response that Mary gave

1:38 *“I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.”*

Here I amwholly trusting.....Wholly available

- **Such a response is more than just believing**.....More than just trusting
It’s a commitment of one’s life into God’s hands.....**To living** as He wants....**To** allowing Him to use

Is that your response today ?.....Because not only does that mean that you belong to Him...

But that He is looking after you

That whatever you may face.....He will be there.....And nothing is too hard for Him

- **It does not mean**.....that you will face no trials.....feel no sorrow
But you can trust God to hear your.....And do amazing things for you

But all that begins with your commitment to belong to Jesus.....

Not just with your words.....

But with your surrender to Him as the Lord and Saviour.....**demands** your worship....obedience

Christmas is one of the best times.....to make that commitment...

or to renew it.....or to celebrate it

As we acknowledge anew.....that the God for whom nothing is too hard

Loves those who respond to Him.....with a love that will never fade

