

# SENT



## HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25



## Luke 2:1-6

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give ..."



# Luke 2:6-7

"birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (ESV)



# SENT



## MARY'S CHOICE

Luke 1:26-38



# Luke 1:26-32

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He ..."



# Luke 1:32-36

"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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' And 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. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the **sixth month**'"



# Luke 1:36-38

“with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God. And 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)



# A typical 14-year-old response?

- Vague & Quick: Nah, I'm good. Can't. Not today. Later?
- Excuse-Based: Mom needs me. Too busy. Got homework, I gotta do stuff.
- Deflection/Alternative: Let's do something else. Let somebody else do it.
- Humor/Sarcasm: Duh, no. Are you kidding me?
- Social Media/Digital: Ignoring the invite, leave the group chat, unfriend.
- Blame/Externalizing: My parents would kill me. I'd be a social outcast.
- Firm & Direct: I'm not doing that.



# Luke 1:38

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me  
according to your word.” (ESV)



# Luke 1:34

“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

(ESV)



# Characteristics of Mary

- Favored by God (1:28, 30)
- Thoughtful (1:29; 2:19, 51)
- Obedient (1:38)
- Believing (1:45)
- Worshipful (1:46)
- Faithful (2:22-51)



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## JOSEPH'S CHOICE

Matthew 1:18-25



# Matthew 1:18-21

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus ...'"



# Matthew 1:21-25

"for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." (ESV)



# A Typical “Manly” Response

- Simple & direct: No way. Nope. I’ll Pass.
- Might set boundaries: Not my child, not my responsibility.
- Could easily rationalize: What will people say? What about my reputation? I don’t want baggage. I’m not ready. It’s a small town and my carpentry business is run on reputation.



# Matthew 1:20-21

"But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'"

(ESV)



# Matthew 1:24-25

"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." (ESV)



# Characteristics of Joseph

- Just (1:19)
- Thoughtful (1:19)
- Considerate (1:19, 20)
- Obedient (1:24)
- Faithful (1:24)



# Scriptural Insight

God honors faithfulness with blessing



# We would not have Luke 2 without Luke 1

- Luke 2:7, "And she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (ESV)
- Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'" (ESV)
- Cf. Matthew 1:19, "Joseph, being a just man ..." (ESV)



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## YOUR CHOICE

God wants to use you for his glory!



# Application

- I will be faithful with what God puts in front of me—whether big or small.



# Application

- I will be faithful with what God puts in front of me—whether big or small.
- I will be willing to obey God without hesitation.



# Application

- I will be faithful with what God puts in front of me—whether big or small.
- I will be willing to obey God without hesitation.
- I will not give up in times of fear, discouragement, or difficulty. I will trust God to give me the strength to accomplish what he has called me to do.



# Application

- I will be faithful with what God puts in front of me—whether big or small.
- I will be willing to obey God without hesitation.
- I will not give up in times of fear, discouragement, or difficulty. I will trust God to give me the strength to accomplish what he has called me to do.
- I will commit to faithfulness—no matter what.



# SENT



## HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS

May we be found faithful  
this Christmas season.



# Next Steps

- This week, God is asking me to say yes to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will choose to be faithful with what God puts in front of me.
- I will be willing to obey God even in times of fear, discouragement, or difficulty.