

THE PRINCE OF PEACE ANNOUNCED

--LUKE 1:26-45--

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we saw hope renewed in the hearts of people because God stepped into history after 400 years of silence and renewed the hope in His promise to send a Savior, the Messiah.

This morning we lit the candle of peace on our advent wreath, and we will continue to chronologically go through the events leading up to the birth of Christ, then the birth of Christ and the people that God used to bring about His purpose. This morning we will look at the announcement of the Prince of Peace and we will see the peace in Mary's life brought about by her faith in God's Word.

I. MARY'S FAITH REVEALED (Luke 1:26-45)

- a. Gabriel was not done _____ messages of good news from God.
- b. God sent Gabriel to Nazareth to a young _____ girl named Mary.
- c. Then suddenly without warning an angel burst into her life that threatened to _____ all her dreams. (Deuteronomy 22:20-21)
- d. God's Word is very clear that this young woman was a _____, that she had never had sexual relations with a man.

II. MARY'S SURPRISE REVEALS HER FAITH (Luke 1:26-33)

- a. When Gabriel appeared to Mary he said, "*Greetings, _____ one! The Lord is with you.*" (Luke 1:28, NASB95)
- b. This phrase "favored one" is literally, "you who is greatly _____."
- c. Gabriel assures her that she does not need to be _____ and then goes on to explain the great grace of God and why the Lord was with her.
- d. Gabriel told this young virgin that she was going to have a _____ and that she was to name this baby boy Jesus.
- e. First, "*He will be _____...*"

- f. Second, "*He...will be called the _____ of the Most High.*" (Colossians 1:15, 19)
- g. Third, "*...the Lord God will give Him the _____ of His father David...*"
- h. Gabriel goes on in his fourth statement about this Son speaking of the Second Advent when he says, "*...and He will reign over the house of Jacob _____...*"
- i. Finally, Gabriel says concerning this Son, "*His kingdom will have no _____.*"
- j. With these five truths God through His messenger Gabriel made very clear to this young lady who this _____ is that she was to bear.

III. MARY'S FAITH REVEALED IN HER SURRENDER (Luke 1:34-38)

- a. Mary now responds to Gabriel not in _____ like Zacharias.
- b. Gabriel explained to her that it would be a _____ act of God.
- c. Gabriel goes on to point out that this Child will be _____.
- d. Even though Mary did not ask for assurance, Gabriel gives her some _____.
- e. Mary's response to Gabriel reveals her deep _____ in God, she responds in complete surrender.
- f. Then we are told the angel _____ her.

IV. MARY'S FAITH IN HER SAVIOR (Luke 1:39-47)

- a. Mary hurried off to the hill country of _____ to the town where Zacharias and Elizabeth lived.
- b. Gabriel had told Zacharias that his son John would be _____ with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.
- c. Mary also speaks after Elizabeth is done and declares in verses 46-47, "*My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my _____.*" (Luke 1:46-47, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

We are told that Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, probably until the time that John was born. You can read of John's birth and the loosing of Zacharias' tongue in Luke 1:57-80. God's promise to Zacharias was carried to completion with the birth of his son.

Gabriel delivered two birth announcements from God to two different people and got two vastly different responses. The one a priest who should have known that God's Word can be trusted and believed, but doubted and asked for assurances that God would keep His word. The second was a young lady who responded to God's Word in faith as she surrendered herself to God as His willing and obedient slave. Mary experienced the grace of God and believed the Word of God, and therefore she could be used by the Spirit of God to accomplish the will of God.

As we look at these two different responses to God's Word, we must ask ourselves how we will respond to God's Word. Will we by faith accept it as truth and the full and final authority of our lives and surrender ourselves to God as His slaves to do His perfect will in our lives? This may cost us something, we may have to suffer disgrace and ridicule, but oh the peace we will have as we are in the center of God's will. Or will we ask for assurances throwing some doubt on God's Word and His ability to accomplish what He has said? What is your response?

Mary knew that God would fulfill His promise through her and with that came peace even though she knew hard days were ahead of her. What would Joseph say? Will he still marry me? Will he believe me? What will people say if he does marry me? What will people say if he doesn't? All those questions must have passed through Mary's mind, yet she had peace being in God's will. Her faith in God and His promises would sustain her through these hard times and she had faith that God would take care of the details. We too can live by faith in God's Word and let God take care of the details.