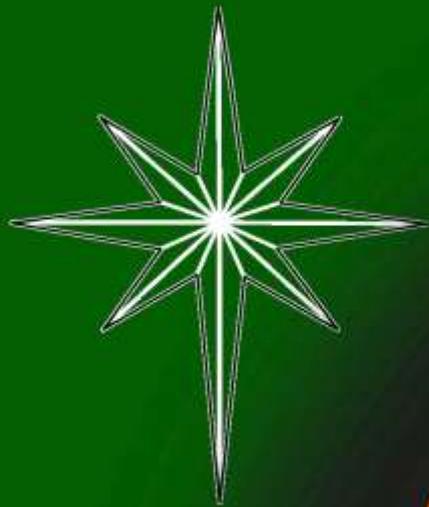


Advent and the Virgin Who Would Not Laugh



9 Dec 18



Unto Us
Finding Us In The Christmas Story

Advent

*a season of remembering
and re-enacting the
birth of Christ*



The Unusual Story of Mary

I. Mary's Introduction (vv26-28)



Luke 1:26-27

“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.”



#1. Mary is a nobody

#2. This isn't a story about Mary



Luke 1:28

***“And he came to her and said,
“Greetings, O favored one,
the Lord is with you!””***



The Unusual Story of Mary

I. Mary's Introduction (vv26-28)

II. Mary's Fear (vv29-33)



Luke 1:29a

“But she was greatly troubled...”

Luke 1:12

“And Zechariah was troubled when he saw [the angel Gabriel], and fear fell upon him.”



Luke 1:29

“But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.”



Luke 1:30a

***“And the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary...”***



Luke 1:30

***“And the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.”***



Luke 1:31

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”



Luke 1:32-33

“He 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.”



***This isn't a story
about Mary!***





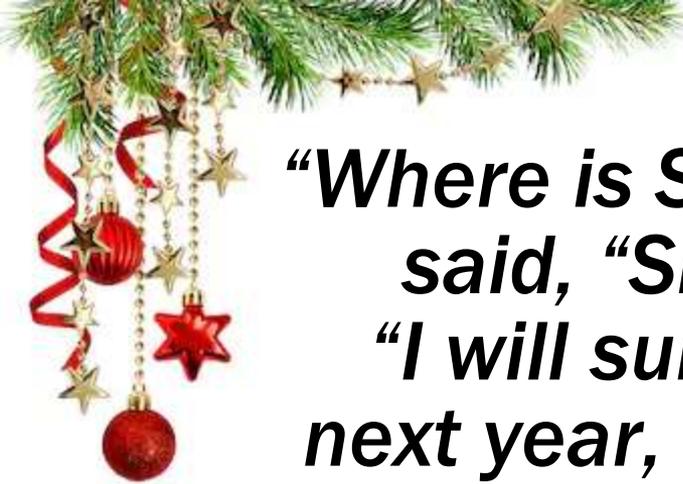
Genesis 17:15-16

And God said to Abraham, “As for [Sarah] your wife... I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Genesis 17:19

God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.”





“Where is Sarah your wife?” And [Abraham] said, “She is in the tent.” The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

Genesis 18:9-11

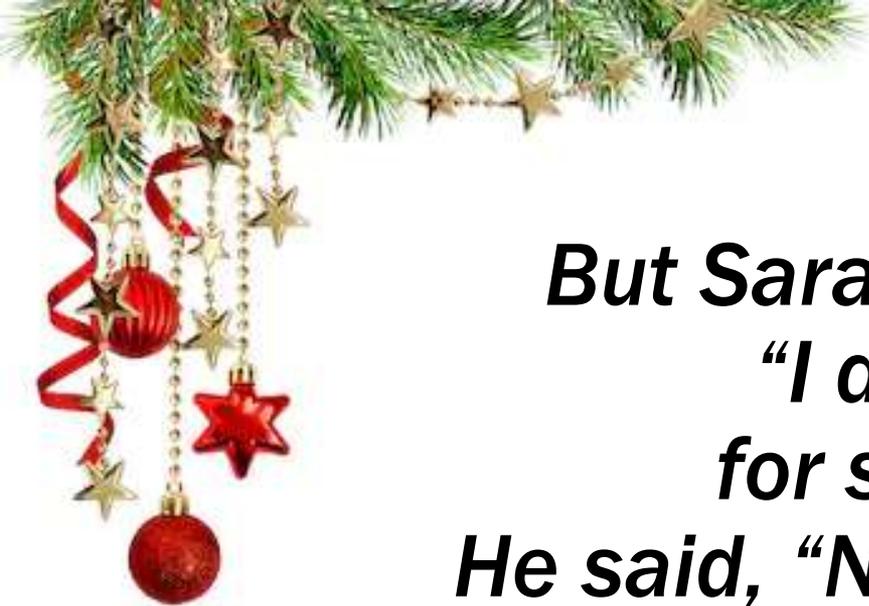




So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:12-14





***But Sarah denied it, saying,
“I did not laugh,”
for she was afraid.
He said, “No, but you did laugh.”***

Genesis 18:15



The Unusual Story of Mary

I. Mary's Introduction (vv26-28)

II. Mary's Fear (vv29-33)

III. Mary's Hope (vv34-37)





***And Mary said to the angel,
“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”***

Luke 1:34

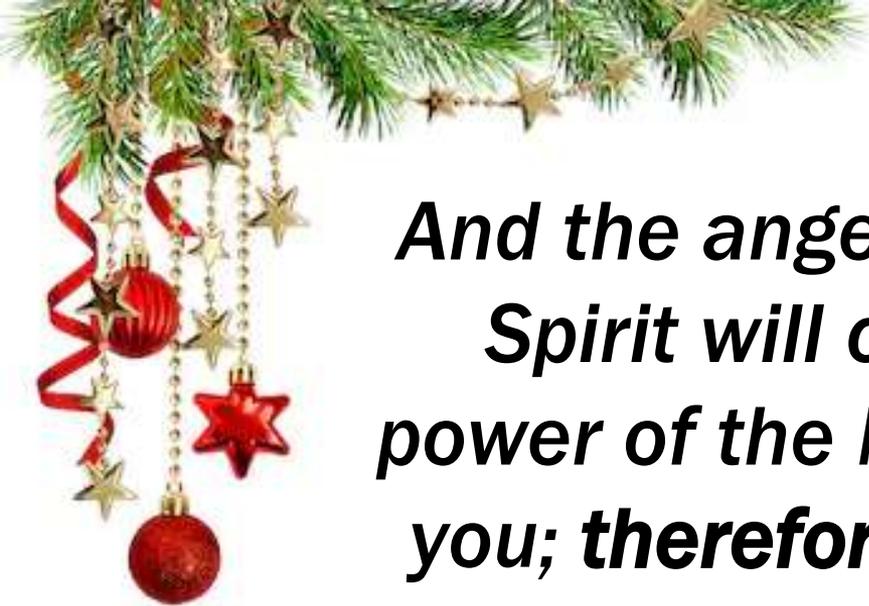




***And the angel answered her,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High
will overshadow you”***

Luke 1:35a





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.”

Luke 1:35



***This isn't a story
about Mary!***





Luke 1:36-37

“And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Genesis 18:14

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?...”



The Unusual Story of Mary

I. Mary's Introduction (vv26-28)

II. Mary's Fear (vv29-33)

III. Mary's Hope (vv34-37)

IV. Mary's Faith (vv38-40)





Luke 1:38

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.





Luke 1:39-40

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.





Luke 1:45

***“And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfillment of
what was spoken to her
from the Lord.”***



Good news
is so so good precisely
because it is so so
true.





Luke 1:42

***“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb!”***



***3 Questions for Reflection and 1 Challenge for this
Advent Season***

***1. Are you grateful to have received the
good news of Jesus' birth?***

Romans 3:22b-23

“For there is no distinction...”



Romans 3:22b-23

“For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”



3 Questions for Reflection and 1 Challenge for this Advent Season

- 1. Are you grateful to have received the good news of Jesus' birth?***
- 2. Are you filled with the laughter of cynicism?***
- 3. How deep is your joy?***
- 4. Make this Christmas about Jesus***

***This isn't a story about
Mary!***

***This is the story about
Jesus Christ!***



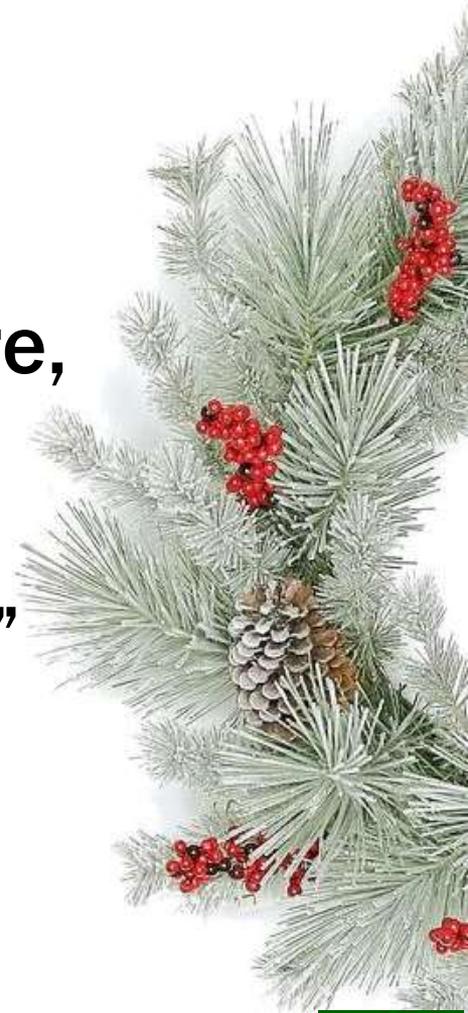
2 Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”



Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”



Make this
Christmas about
Jesus.

