



Lord and King

Luke 1:26-38

This Week's Focus

If you asked a few random people to share with you who Jesus is, what kinds of answers do you think you would get? Some would likely say that Jesus was a great man or they might identify with particular teachings of His that they think are admirable—don't judge (Matt. 7:1), or love your enemies (Matt. 5:44).

Before Jesus was born, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her exactly who Jesus would be. As we look at this divine declaration about Jesus in Luke 1, we will see that while Jesus certainly was a great man and teacher, He is much more. It is vital we know who Jesus is because it is only when we know Him rightly that we will prioritize Him appropriately. Jesus is worthy of utmost celebration because He is our Savior, God, and King.

Begin by reading the passage through two times.

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Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And the angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The LORD is with you." **29** But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. **30** Then the angel told her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end. **34** Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?" **35** The angel replied to her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** "I am the LORD's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

What is the best news you have ever received? What made it such good news?

How is the promise of Jesus' birth good news?

Luke 1:26-30

Describe Mary's initial reaction to the angel Gabriel (v. 29). Why do you think she reacted this way?

How did Gabriel respond to her fears? How might Gabriel's declaration in verse 30 have given Mary the hope and courage she needed to embrace the message she was receiving?

Luke 1:31-33

What do these verses tell us about Jesus—who He is and what He came to do?

What does the name "Jesus" mean? What does this tell us about Jesus' mission? What can we infer from this about our mission as His followers?

The Virgin Birth

The virgin birth is Luke's central emphasis in this section (v. 27). He will conclude this narrative section by telling how the virgin birth is God's possible impossibility (vv. 34-37). The conclusion to the narrative (v. 38) shows Mary's willingness to be a part of God's impossible acts.

[Luke 1:34-38]

Discuss the significance of the virgin birth of Jesus. What difference does the virgin birth make? Why was it necessary?

What does the virgin birth confirm about Jesus' identity?

Read verses 35-37 again. What insight did the angel give Mary into God's mysterious work in her life?

How did Mary respond to Gabriel's announcement? What can we learn from her response?

Now What?

What does it look like for us to live in awe of Jesus? Why is this necessary as we live on mission for Him?

What is one area in your life where you need to trust God and submit to Him like Mary did? What next step do you need to take to trust God in that area?

How should the reality of who Jesus is (Son of God, everlasting King, Savior, etc.) shape the way we live? Have these realities shaped your life this week? If not, what needs to change in your life?

Do you think of yourself as God's slave? Why or why not? What is one step you will take to humble yourself before God and rely fully on Him?

Central Truth

Jesus is worthy of full devotion—He is our Savior, God, and King.

Personal Challenge

Dwell: Read Philippians 2:1-11 and Colossians 1:15-21. Then make a list of everything these passages tell us about who Jesus is and what He came to do. When you are finished, journal a prayer of praise to God thanking Him for sending us the perfect Savior.

Memorize: Luke 1:32-33

Pray: Thank God for loving us so much that He willingly took on flesh in order to dwell among us, serve us, die for us, and ultimately rise victoriously for us. Pray that the example Christ gave us of humble self-sacrifice would empower us to take authentic steps toward living fully and passionately on mission for Him. Ask God to help you to redirect the focus of your life away from yourself and to the praise, glory, and fame of Jesus Christ.

Keep on Digging

Read the following passages, then journal a sentence or two about what each tells you about Jesus. How might having a greater awareness of these truths about Jesus empower us to live on mission for Him?

- Psalm 110
- Isaiah 9:6-7; 53:1-12
- John 1:1-18
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Hebrews 1:1-14
- 1 John 1:1-4