

Dr. Ron Armstrong • December 13, 2020
The King Has Come: We Humbly Stand in the Line

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** 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, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be

pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

A. Ready to serve.

1) During this surprise angelic visit and prophecy, Mary goes from complete unawareness to willing participant in 21 words.

2) Mary didn't argue about age, qualifications, community standing, approval, or schedule. She just said, "I am the Lord's servant" to God's call.

3) How "ready" are we to do what God calls us to do? How long does it take you to get to, "I am the Lord's servant?" How about when:

- You feel prompted to show kindness to a neighbor?
- You feel prompted to give, share, or make a sacrifice for someone else?
- You are invited to help in a ministry?

4) Zechariah got in trouble for questioning Gabriel. Why didn't Mary? Look at the questions:

- "How can I be sure of this?" He wanted a guaranty of how things would work out.
- "How will it happen?" Mary just wanted to know what to do.

B. Ready to humbly and kindly stand in the line.

1) Before the vision, Joseph was already going to be kind. Don't use what other people do to justify your behavior. "Be ye kind"

2) Matthew wanted to connect the dots between the OT and NT for us: 14, 14, 14.

3) Joseph knew the Law and the prophecies. He recognized the significance of being in the line. He was willing to stand in the line. I think it resonated with him.

4) We are in the long line of God's plan too.