

Let Me Introduce You

Luke 1:26-33 Sunday AM, June 9, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 1:26-33 (NASB95) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him 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 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Luke's defense of the gospel to Theophilus began not apologetically, but historically—real people, faithfully living under God—a faithful priest and his wife with a great need—a natural need (children weren't an option, but part of marriage relationship as God allows), a social need—blessing and success tied to having children, identity—worth. Zacharias and Elisabeth LIVED BEFORE GOD—sought to honor His commands. IN the middle of their service to God, Zacharias, chosen by lot (did Pastor Jahn say 18,000 priests) to offer incense. While "before the Lord," the angel of the Lord meets him—seems natural to read in Scripture, but very rare—afraid—Do not fear, petition heard—But the answer included not just the child, but instructions for that child as the child would NOT merely be for them and their purposes, but for God's and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. 16 "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God . . . so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Seemingly understandably, Zacharias asks, How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years. The angel gives further identification, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. THIS changes things—one standing in the presence of God is to be honored because God is to be honored. Because God is not merely king, but the King kings, the God above all other gods, you honor God by responding to His word. Therefore, Zacharias is disciplined for his dishonor shown by questioning God's word. Because he fears the Lord, he responds with worship, tells the people about the vision, continues his service, and his wife has a child. All this is part of God's redemptive history, bringing Him glory. And how do God's people respond? They praise the Lord! Like to introduce one of our songs for VBS this week from Psalm 150 as we join the worshippers.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Praise the Lord (Ps. 150)**

Today introduces another couple and another visit by Gabriel. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. Wait! Did you hear that? You have found favor with God. Does this excite you—the possibility of mankind finding favor with God? To be confronted with the holiness of God and see anything but rejection and wrath should make you turn and say, how can this be?!? This is the posture of humility. Sing the VBS hymn for the year

***Hymn #201: Grace Greater Than Our Sin**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Who But the Lord Scripture: Isaiah 49:1–13** (NASB95) Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. 2 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. 3 He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory." 4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; Yet surely the justice due to Me is with the LORD, And My reward with My God." 5 And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength), 6 He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." 7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, "Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You." 8 Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, And in a day of salvation I have helped You; And I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages; 9 Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, And their pasture will be on all bare heights. 10 "They will not hunger or thirst, Nor will the scorching heat of sun strike them down; For He who has compassion on them will lead them And will guide them to springs of water. 11 "I will make all My mountains a road, And My highways will be raised up. 12 "Behold, these will come from afar; And lo, these will come from the north and from the west, And these from the land of Sinim." 13 Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people And will have compassion on His afflicted.

Offering: *Doxology:

The apologetic for the gospel comes not merely in the incarnation, but from God's word and work to call out a people, and through them to care for the nations--5 And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him. 6 He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Israel WOULD represent God. Though they failed so often, they WERE a light to the nations, and from them WOULD come the Messiah, ALL while He cared for His people—just like he did for Zacharias, Elisabeth, Joseph, and Mary. Worship God's past dealings that show His character and power to save.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

Once again, this baby from God came with instructions and honor 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him 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 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." This One is great! Choir asked you to compare with all others—who but Lord can make shadows flee—NONE BUT LORD. Right response? Humility—next week v. 38 bondsman of the Lord, - I am your servant. As Pastor Jahn prepares to preach, prepare to worship God's greatness with a life of submission.

***Hymn #358: I Am Thine, O Lord**

Message: Let Me Introduce You Luke 1:26-33

***Hymn #82-83: O Come, Let Us Adore Him; Lord, We Praise You**

***Prayer**