

Advent Devotion | Week Two

THY WILL BE DONE!

Luke 1:26–38 (ESV)

²⁷ to In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And 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 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 to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

My brother recently just got married! Wohooo!

Leading up to the special day, there were lots of preparations that had to be done. You can imagine that the couple and our families had much to plan and prepare.

Mary and Joseph were engaged and getting ready for marriage in a year's time according to Jewish customs. They probably have lots of preparation for the special day, like my brother and now sister-in-law had. The newly engaged couple had their plans and expectations as they look forward to their future life together as a married couple.

It was during their engagement period that angel Gabriel showed up to Mary. She was probably very shocked when she heard the prophecy that she would conceive and bear a son. She must have thought: "Giving birth to a child as a virgin? The child will be great and called the Son of the Most High?! My child will be the heir of King David's throne? His Kingdom will have no end?"

Despite these uncertainties and disruptions to her plans, Mary said: *"let it be to me according to your [angel Gabriel's] word."* On the surface, it looks like an easy thing to say; just let it be lah! But we need to understand the implications of this. Joseph is very likely to react to her sudden pregnancy terribly and assume she had committed adultery, (he indeed planned to divorce her quietly cf. Mt 1:19). Though the death penalty for adultery did not seem to be carried out often (Dt. 22:23f), it was still a possible consequence. Therefore, this seemingly simple submission was a huge surrender on Mary's part. She was willing to suffer ridicule, shame or even death.

Many of us have our plans and expectations for our lives, but are we willing to submit and surrender our lives to God's will?

The quiet submission of our lives often points the world to Jesus without us even knowing it. Individually, we may feel small in playing our humble part in God's plan; but everybody plays an important role. The multitudes of people from every generation since king David each played a part in God's redemptive plan leading to the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. In the same way, we may feel small compared to the generations that came before us and that may come after; but we have a specific and important role in God's plan.

Peter Moses Gan

Reflection

Will you choose to submit to God's will in the plans He has for you?

Prayer

*Father God,
Whatever your will is, whether you've shown it to me clearly or not, let it be to me as You want. May Your will be done in my life. Help me to submit to you, because You first submitted yourself, lowering yourself to be a vulnerable human being, so that I could be with You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Christmas Carol

What Child is This!

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and lamb are feeding?
The end of fear for all who hear
The silent Word is pleading

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israels
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own him;

The king of kings (King of kings)
salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him

Raise, raise a song on high (raise the song on high)
The virgin sings her lullaby (lullaby)
Joy, joy for Christ is born.
The babe the Son of Mary

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