



# Holy Moments:

Appearances

Announcements

Treasured

Experiencing Love

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

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

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

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

- A profound Holy Moment:
  - An Appearance- The Angel
  - An Announcement- You will be pregnant
  - She will treasure this encounter
  - Did she experience love?

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# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

I'm blessed because God has chosen me to do something special.

I will be famous because of what God is doing.

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

God shows His mercy to people throughout history

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He works in the humble, not the proud

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants  
forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about  
three months and then returned home.

I am a  
descendent of  
Abraham, and  
God has made  
good on his  
promise to all  
my ancestors...  
Through me!

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

- Bearing the name
- Being a representative
- Being a pawn in God's strategic plan
- Accepting your current station
- Humble pride
  - Not "look at me" pride
  - "I am a part of something great" pride

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

- Obedience is love
  - Jn 14:23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.  
24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.
- Love, honor and obey: both spouses
- Submit to your will
- Lay down my willfulness

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

- Love shows itself in responsibility
- Love shows itself in duty
- Love shows itself in setting aside one's willfulness
- Love shows itself in bearing your part for the sake of the community to which you belong
  - Family
  - Church
  - Country

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

How is your obedience when it comes to God?

Regular Bible reading?

Regular prayer?

Regular Fellowship?

Regular service to others?

Regular giving from your finances?

Regular serving in God's house?

Do you bear the name well? Christian!

## Three Dollars Worth of God

I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.

Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine.

I don't want enough of God to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant.

I want ecstasy, not transformation.

I want warmth of the womb, not a new birth.

I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack.

I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.—  
by Wilbur Rees

# Holy Moments: Experiencing Love

- Love cannot be one sided
- Love, to be love, must be received
- Love, to be love, must be responded to
- “I do” in a wedding contains the power
- If God appears, announces, pours out His treasures upon you...
- How will you respond?
  - Look what God did for me?
  - Obedience?

# So What?

- Are you only a receiver of God's love?
- Are you obedient?
- Are you willing to follow Mary's lead in bearing the name with honor, and with pride?

