

# ADVENT

{3<sup>rd</sup> Week -- December 11, 2016 A.D.}

**Themes:** {Announcement, Incarnation, Life Eternal, Joy}

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{Luke 1:26-38, Luke 1:46-55, Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-12 & Luke 2:4-20}

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## **Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> "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; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> "For nothing will be impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." <sup>1</sup> And the angel departed from her.

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## **Luke 1:46-55**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. <sup>49</sup> "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup> "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. <sup>51</sup> "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart. <sup>52</sup> "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. <sup>53</sup> "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed. <sup>54</sup> "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever."

- **God acts mightily in Redemptive History – without our counsel, permission or approval** {Luke 1 verses 31-33 and 35}.
- **We are greatly affected – reflect deeply upon the implications of the cost of glorifying Christ in your life** {Luke 1 verse 27}:
- **Our correct response:**
  - **Great Obedience to the Word of God at Great Personal Cost**
    - **Obedience to EVERY WORD that proceeds from GOD/EVERY TIME – Approval of God**
    - Feelings/Experiences/Cost – Approval of self
    - What others think about us – Approval of men
  - Exaltation of the Lord
  - Rejoicing in God our Savior
  - Humility
  - Thankfulness
  - Worshipping the holiness and mercy of God/Praise of His faithfulness, in holy fear

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## <sup>1</sup> **Deuteronomy 22:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> "If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, <sup>24</sup> then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

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ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, 1995 UPDATE, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

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