

Daily Devotional, December 10, 2021 Jesus, Thy Will be Done in Me

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. Luke 1:30-38 (NIV)

We call this Bible passage, “The Annunciation,” the moment when the angel visits Mary and tells her that she will give birth to Jesus, the Messiah. We admire Mary because of her quick consent, her agreement to be “the Lord’s servant.” But Mary is not just a good, obedient girl—she hears something else that we might gloss right over.

Mary hears overwhelming evidence of God’s hand at work. It was not just that she was the chosen woman to bear God’s son. Mary hears the news that her much older cousin, Elizabeth, who is far beyond the normal years of birthing a child, would also bring a son into the world under seemingly impossible circumstances. The full meaning of these two related events led the angel to utter his final and most important message: “For no word from God will ever fail.”

Mary also hears that God will not leave her alone in this time. Through Elizabeth, God will provide companionship and protection. As Mary begins to comprehend the sweep of the story of which she is a key part, she asks no more questions. I can imagine her dashing off as quickly as she could to go see Elizabeth so they could rejoice together, and to share an intimate wonder that only the two of them could ever understand. What profound joy they must have experienced!

Prayer: My Lord and savior, Jesus, help me to hear your voice. Assure me that nothing is impossible with You. Help me to see Your hand at work and to trust Your provision and protection. I want to give myself over to You, as freely as Mary did, and to be just as obedient to Your will. Use me Lord for Your will and for Your glory. In Your most holy name, Amen.