

Introduction:

- First - relevance - a number of church doctrines are touched upon
 - incarnation - “advent”
 - virgin birth
 - doctrine of Mary
- Second - look at Star - a thing
 - Look at a Barn - a Place
 - Look at Gift - Child
 - Today... a Girl - a person

I. Birth Announcement

1. Seen cards - seen facebook announcements
 - Gabriel
2. Purpose
 - human level - ready Joseph and Mary
 - divine level - THIS is what God is doing
 - it involves you
3. Favored
 - “Grace” - noun
 - “Graced” - verb - action
 - Not - grace from her
 - But - grace to her
 - Special anointing and special blessing
4. “Venerated?”
 - Catholic church - bowing
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Some Jews
 - Mother of God
 - Perpetual virginity
 - Assumption - body and soul to heaven
 - She - highly lifted up to the point of making Mary divine
 - “Hail Mary” - prayer - an intermediate person to pray to
5. Logic:
 - Jesus is too busy - I’ll talk to Mary
 - or, if Jesus is perfect, had to come from perfect mom
6. Was graced
 - Was not perfect
7. The church has a way of
 - A. Changing the gospel
 - B. Adding to what the book says
 - C. Fall back on logic instead of truth
 - D. Bottom line - get between people and God

- 8. To take Jesus' place
 - Was graced
 - Not perfect
 - Was used

II. How Can This Be?

- 1. Questioning God
 - two ways
 - 1) just asking a question
 - 2) expression of anger
- 2. Why God? - two ways to say it
 - A. Why God?
 - B. Why God? With clenched teeth
- 3. Explained
 - Holy Ghost will come
- 4. An explanation - now Elizabeth is example
 - Aged and barren - special - miraculous birth
- 5. !!). Virgin Birth
 - A. I'm a virgin - makes sense
 - B. Virgin birth- prophesied by Isaiah
 - C. Isa. 7:14
 - announced by the angel here
 - testified to by Mary herself (34)
- 6. Other "special" births
 - Abraham - Sarah
 - Samuel's mom - Hannah
 - Samson's mom - not named
 - Elizabeth - other special births but never a virgin
 - Was a sign reserved for the Messiah
- 7. Read again - 26-27
 - A miracle - the ultimate explanation
 - After all nothing is impossible with Him
- 8. All about Him
 - the angel focuses there
 - Gabriel is focused - we are not
- 9. So really...
 - unexplained
 - unexpected
 - illogical
 - but true
- 10. Incarnation
 - God steps into physical life
 - Immaterial takes on the material
 - Timeless (eternity) becomes dated - a time
 - Spiritual person - becomes a human person
 - A miracle - yes, but accomplished through a ...girl

III. Assignment Accepted

1. Received assignment
 - verse 38 - "I am the Lord's servant"
2. Her place - your place
 - God has an assignment for each of us
3. Her's -
 - be a mom
 - give birth
 - Yours... what's yours
 - not be a professor
 - not super hero
 - not write books or singer
4. Reminded of Paul - "Kicking against the pricks"
 - moving against God
 - moving with the Pharisees - with the flow
 - moving against God
5. She calls herself - "Handmaid" - KJV
 - servant - NIV
6. What was so amazing about Mary?
 - her IQ?
 - her beauty?
 - her family - lineage?
7. I'd say it was her attitude
 - didn't argue
 - didn't debate God
 - didn't say - "get someone else"
 - didn't ask for a sign
 - didn't say - I'm kinda busy
 - didn't give God a list of why "I can't"
8. Amazing thing in the Bible - God uses people
 - regular folks
 - A. An unknown Magi
 - B. Unnamed shepherds
 - probably poor
 - probably not formally educated
 - probably young
9. Uses people - not superheros
 - children used - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
 - apostles too young to pay taxes
 - poor used
 - all the apostles - regular workers
 - Jesus Himself - a carpenter
10. Uses people - delivered from Egypt - used Moses
11. With all our
 - wealth

- education - formal - computer
- training and opportunities

12. Favored/ Graced

Responds with a song - verse 46
“My soul doth magnify the Lord...”
Why would God use me?

13. Attitude is key

Attitudes are like default settings

- toward men - can't trust em
- toward church - bad experience
- toward Christianity - others need that - not me
- toward people of other races
- prayer and the Bible

Attitude is always reflected in your lifestyle
Call it:

- a willing heart?
- a submitted mind?
- she's lead able
- she's teachable
- she's controllable

She's not too proud to be these things

Every person has an attitude

- people do what they want to do
- make the time to do what we want
- make an excuse not to
- leaning toward God
- leaning away from God

So, when the Angel comes to Mary - she says (38)

“I am the Lord's servant”

“May it be to me as you have said

14. Two takeaways:

- #1. When God gets ready to do something He usually uses people
- #2. When that happens attitude is everything

So... God reached out to You by sending Son

Are you teachable?

Are you lead able?

Which way are you leaning?