



## HARK! — Mary

Sermon Discussion Questions – November 26, 2023

### Scripture Passages:

**Warm Up:** Take some time and share how your Thanksgiving went.

**Luke 1:26,27 (NIV)** “In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary...”

**Luke 1:27,28** “to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

**Luke 1:29 (NLT)** Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

**Luke 1:30 (NIV)** Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “For you have found favor with God!

**Luke 1:31-33 (NIV)** He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!

He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!

**Isaiah 55:8,9 (NIV)** Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so God’s purposes are higher than our purposes, so His plans are higher than our plans, so His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

**Psalm 112:6,7 (NIV)** “Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.”

**Luke 1:34** Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

**Luke 1:35 (NIV)** “The angel replied, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ – in other words, this isn’t a job for you; this is a job for God – “and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God.” For with God nothing will be impossible.

**Luke 1:38 (NIV)** “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”

### Discussion:

1. This week we started our Christmas series! What is your favorite thing about the Christmas season?
2. Pastor Scott started his message with saying “*God often leads us to where we are not headed.*” Can you think of a time when this happened in your life?
3. Read Luke 1:26-38. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
4. Pastor Scott said, “*Oftentimes what we call ‘interruptions,’ God often sees as invitations.*” What does this statement mean to you? Have you seen this in your own life? What has God invited you to/what might He be inviting you to that felt/feels like an interruption?
5. Pastor Scott gave us the promise of Christmas that with God nothing will be impossible. How have you found this promise to be true?
6. Read Luke 1:38. Pastor Scott gave us this quote from Eugene Peterson in *The Contemplative Pastor*:  
“*The assumption of spirituality is that always God is doing something before I know it. So, the task is not to get God to do something I think needs to be done, but to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond to it and participate and take delight in it.*”  
How do we see this as Mary’s response? What does it mean to participate and take delight in what God is doing?

### Next Steps:

Pastor Scott ended with these two statements:

*“I Am the Lord’s Servant” is a statement of identity.*

*“May Your Word to Me Be Fulfilled” is a statement of vocation and participation.*

Do you see these statements as true for who you are? Are you able to experience the true promise of Christmas? If not, what is stopping you? What can you do this week to help get into the posture of “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”?