

Spiritual Appreciation - Luke 1:26-38

Spiritual Appreciation

- **Galatians 4:4-5 NIV**, 4 When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.
 - This is the season where we celebrate that “set time”
 - Biblical Greek word for sent or sent forth - to send out or away on a mission with authority
 - God the Father dispatched God the Son with a divine purpose
 - To conquer sin, death, the grave, and Satan

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 - Biblical Greek word born – to become
 - Not the Biblical Greek word for beget or begat which means to “father” or “become the father of” someone by human reproduction
 - Jesus's human birth was not like any other: he “became” human in a unique, one-time-only way, as the “Seed of the woman” as promised in Genesis, not born from a male seed

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 - Biblical Greek word born – to become
 - **Genesis 3:15 AMP**, “And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel.”

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- **Galatians 4:4-5 NIV**, 4 When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.
 - Biblical Greek word redeem - to "buy out" or "buy back" and was a term for purchasing a slave's freedom
 - Biblical Greek word adoption - literally means "to place as a son"
 - Granting them full legal rights, status, and inheritance as a son in a new family

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 - Biblical Greek word adoption - literally means "to place as a son"
 - It describes how believers are welcomed into God's family with full rights and privileges as His adult sons through Jesus Christ

Spiritual Appreciation

- It is during this time of the year where we as born-again children of God need to stop and fully appreciate the work God has done to do all of this
- Appreciation – to recognize the full worth of something or someone
 - To understand (a situation) fully; recognize the full implications of
 - To recognize its value, to be fully aware of something, or to increase in value
 - To be grateful

Spiritual Appreciation

- To be grateful
 - Not just for the event of Christmas, but also for the people God used to bring salvation into your life
 - And to think it all began with a young Jewish girl, planning the rest of her life and an impossible role
 - Just as Jesus was “sent forth” from the Father, so was Mary sent forth or chosen to become the mother of Jesus

Scripture

- **Luke 1:26-38 NIV**, 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Scripture

- **Luke 1:26-38 NIV**, 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Scripture

- **Luke 1:26-38 NIV**, 34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”
 - 35 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. 36 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. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.”
 - 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Appreciate what was asked of Jesus

- **Philippians 2:6-8 TLB**, 6 who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, 7 but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men (*taking the form of man*). 8 And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.
 - Kenosis – Greek word for emptying oneself
 - Jesus did not empty Himself of His divine attributes
 - Jesus did not cease to be God, and He did not become a “lesser god”
 - Jesus laid aside the privileges that were His in heaven

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 - Rather than stay on His throne in heaven, Jesus “made himself nothing” (as the NIV translates Philippians 2:7)
 - When He came to earth, “he gave up his divine privileges” (NLT)
 - He veiled His glory, and He chose to occupy the position of a slave

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 - As part of the kenosis, Jesus most of the time lived within the limitations of humanity
 - God does not get tired or thirsty or hungry, but Jesus did
 - God doesn't get frustrated but Jesus seemed to at times

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 - God knows all things, but at times Jesus did not
 - Other times, Jesus' omniscience was on full display
 - I believe the majority of the time Jesus operated under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, just as we must

Appreciate what was asked of Jesus

- We can sort of grasp the cross
 - But we have no way to fully grasp the momentous emptying of Jesus
 - Knowing his humanity would end in a substitute sacrifice
 - It was Jesus' choice and gift given to His Heavenly Father to provide complete redemption for God's creation He deeply loves
- Spend some time this Christmas Season to contemplate and appreciate and be grateful for the gift of God's Son, our Heavenly Father has given us

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- The Catholic Church worships Mary, and the Protestant Church mostly ignore her, and I think both positions are incorrect
 - God only uses sinners to accomplish His will on earth because that's all He has to work with
 - **Romans 3:23 NIV**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - But just as we revere Moses and David, Peter and Paul we must also revere Mary's work in bringing salvation into our world

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- We really cannot grasp what becoming pregnant outside of marriage was like during Mary's time
 - Life full of rejection and shamefulness to her and her family, even the entire town she lived in
 - Falsely accused, Not having all the answers she needed to make her decisions
 - Even when she asked the how question, the answer from God was true and totally un-understandable
 - Basically, don't concern yourself with the how Mary, God's going to take care of that

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- What was God's opinion of Mary?
 - This is the only one that really counts
 - **Vs. 28**, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
 - Biblical Greek Highly Favored - to bestow grace
 - It emphasizes that God's grace is a completed action with ongoing effects, meaning she was divinely graced and remains so

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- What was God's opinion of Mary?
 - **Vs 30**, "you have found favor with God"
 - Biblical Greek "Found Favor" - is the "unmerited, undeserved, and unconditional love and favor" of God
 - It represents God's graciousness, kindness, and goodwill toward people

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- Throughout history it has always been considered a privilege to be called into service for the King
 - We all recognize now the privilege of Mary becoming Jesus' mother
 - But what about the privilege of serving the King in sickness or distress or whatever comes into your life
 - Or the privilege of serving Jesus as His hand, feet, voice to a lost and eternally dying world

Appreciate what was asked of Mary

- When looking at our lives will we be like Mary in **Vs. 38**, “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”
 - **John 2:5 NASB**, “His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He tells you, do it.”
- Spend some time this Christmas Season to contemplate and appreciate and be grateful for the gift Mary the Mother of Jesus gave us

Appreciate the people salvation's message passed through to come into your life

- The life of Mary was just the first step of your salvation
 - Can we not take time and appreciate the gift the Apostles gave us in preserving, teaching and publishing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Can we not take time and appreciate the many who died for the Gospel so one day your ears would hear of the wonderful work of salvation made available to you
 - Can we not appreciate the people of told us about this great salvation God was offering us

Appreciate the people salvation's message passed through to come into your life

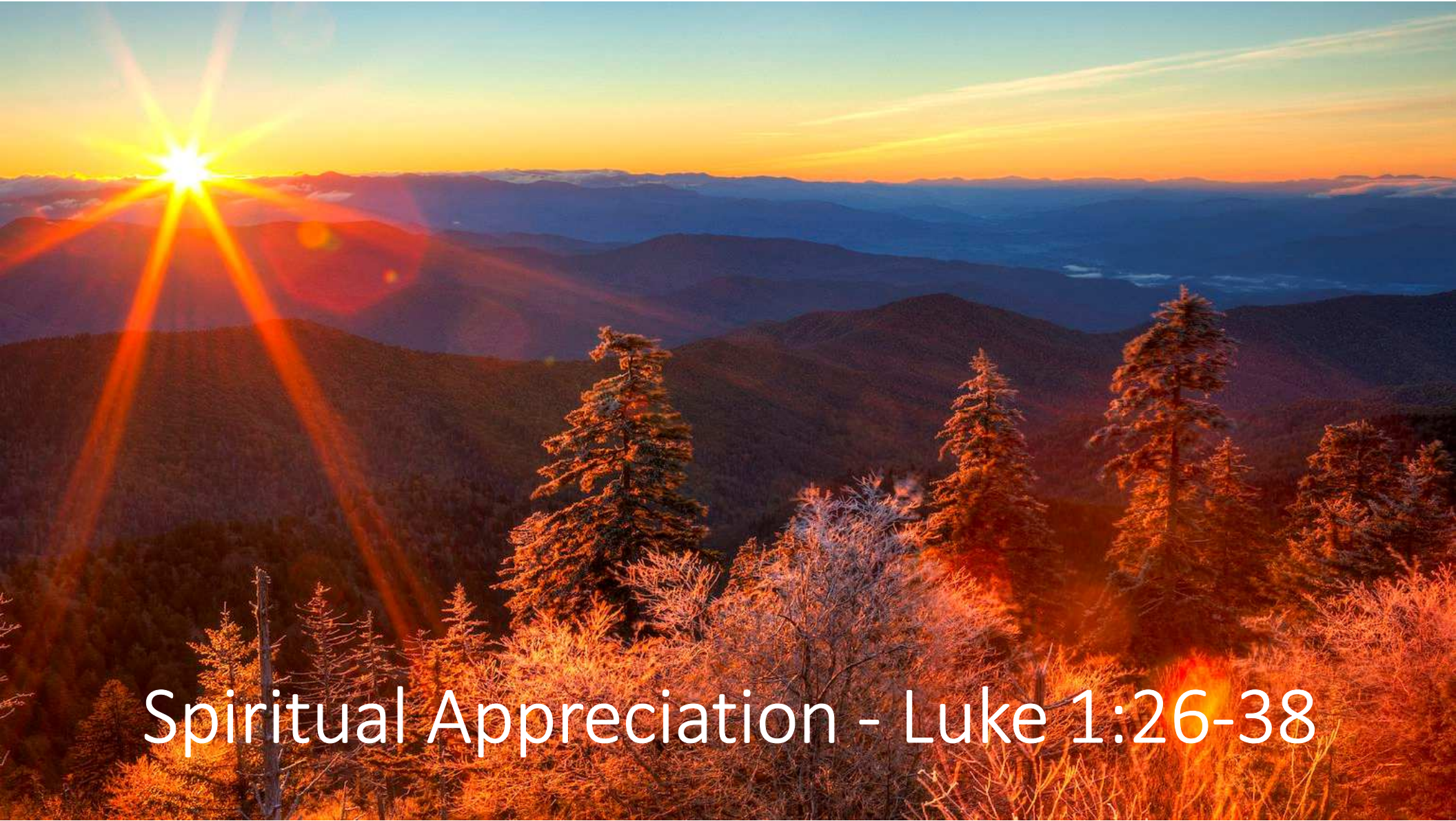
- The life of Mary was just the first step of salvation
 - Can we not appreciate the many people who helped grow us up in this great Salvation
 - We can call it our Hall of Faith

Appreciate the people salvation's message passed through to come into your life

- What do you think the odds are of a small group of witnesses in the first century, from an obscure area of the world, with little to no power, passing through centuries of satanic hatred then presented to you would be?
 - Impossible you might say
 - Jesus said in **Matthew 19:26 NIV**, “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Appreciate your salvation during this Christmas Season

- When things get rushed, remember Mary
- When unsure of what to do, remember Mary
- When asked to do something that may seem unpleasant at the start, remember Mary



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