



A Blessed Christmas

Week 2:
Willing Hearts



The Nativity



The Beatitudes

1. Both deal with joy.
2. Both are counter-cultural.
3. Both reveal God's nature.

Luke 1:26-38 (NKJV)

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with

you; blessed *are* you among women!”

²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the

Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore,*

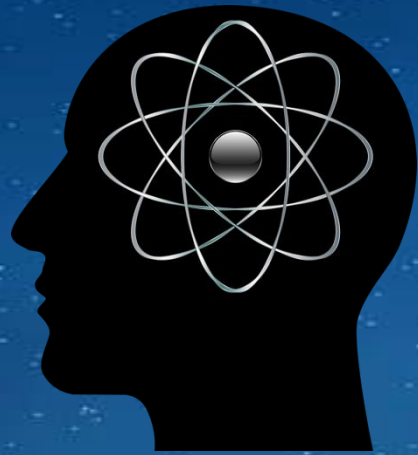
also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary's Process of Acceptance

Troubled



Considers

Afraid



**Wrestles
with the
Impossible**

Moves



The 2nd Beatitude: Matt. 5:4

Blessed are those
who mourn, for
they will be
comforted.

(New International
Version)

God makes happy
those who are sad.
They will have
comfort.

(Worldwide English
Translation)

Spiritual Mourning

As I confront God and His holiness, and contemplate the life that I am meant to live, I see myself, my utter helplessness and hoplessness. I discover my quality of spirit and immediately that makes me mourn. I must mourn about the fact that I am like that.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

When was Mary Comforted?

Blessed are those who mourn, **for they will be comforted.**

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;

Matt 1:18-24 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about

these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and **you shall call His name Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the

Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. **And he called His name Jesus.**

Why does the Bible make a big deal about names?

- 1. It denoted a parent's hope.**
- 2. It marked a unique birth.**
- 3. It communicated God's message.**
- 4. It indicated a new beginning.**
- 5. It was the father's responsibility.**

For Joseph, everything was going as planned.

- ✓ **Find Spouse**
- ✓ **Enter Betrothal**
- ✓ **Fix House**
- ✓ **Uphold Morals**



He was in control!



**No Control Over
Mary**

**No Control Over
The Whispers Or
Shame**

**Little Control Over
The Future**

Don't be Afraid

**You're in the
Middle of God's
Plan**

Name Him: Jesus



The 2nd Beatitude: Matt. 5:5

Blessed are the
meek for they will
inherit the earth.

(New International
Version)

God makes happy those
who quietly trust him
and do not try to get
their own way. The
world will belong to
them.

(Worldwide English Version)

Meekness . . . is the humble strength that belongs to the man who has learned to submit to difficulties, knowing that in everything God is working for his good. The meek man is the one who has stood before God's judgment and abdicated all his supposed "rights".

Sinclair Ferguson

**Christmas isn't just some day we
celebrate – it is one to imitate.**

- **The spirit of Christmas is poor.**
- **The design of Christmas is to be with.**
- **The joy of Christmas is boundless.**