



Series: Waiting For God

Sermon: Part 3: Courageous Waiting

Date: Sunday, December 17th, 2023

We can become so focused on our _____ and wants that we forget the larger picture and the purpose that God has for our lives in the here and now.

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

No matter where you come from, no matter what your background is, know that God _____ you.

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:29-30)

What We Learn From Mary:

1. Be _____ in the waiting

"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." (Luke 1:31-35)

Scripture referenced: Luke 1:42-45

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38)

2. Be _____ in the waiting

Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. (Matthew 1:19)



“Command me that I will follow.”

No matter what perils we may encounter, we are invited to trust God and to say yes to whatever He wants to do in us, through us, and around us, while we are waiting.

Eperchomai: to come upon or to come next to

Scripture referenced: Acts 1:8

3. _____ and declare what God has done and will do while we are waiting

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is Holy, and He has done great things for me. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear Him. His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. For He made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and His children forever.” (Luke 1: 46-55)

God too was waiting. He was waiting for His revelation and the enactment of His plan of salvation. He was waiting to reconcile us with Him, to restore what He initially intended for us: to be in relationship with Him.

Bottom Line: *Waiting faithfully, courageously, and praisefully*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. What is something that you are currently waiting for God about?
2. How may God be using your current waiting time to prepare you for His arrival in your life and in your circumstances?
3. How does Mary’s story encourage you to wait more faithfully, courageously, and praisefully as you trust God with your circumstances and unknowns?

Songs used in service: The Lord’s Prayer (Hillsong Worship), Deliverer (North Point Worship), Tienes Un Plan (33 dC), Goodness of God (Rhett Walker)

-----Tear Here -----
Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?