



Sermon Notes: December 6, 2015

The Way Miracles Happen

2 of 5 from the teaching series "The Christmas Miracle"
Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Matthew 1:18-25

The Christmas story from Joseph's perspective – ¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38

The Christmas story from Mary's perspective – 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." 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." 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.

1) When we say "yes" to God's work in our lives we're in faith saying "yes" to letting him be Lord.

- We all like to be in charge of our lives, because we are selfish (we want our own happiness), and we are scared (we don't want to get hurt). God created us to find lasting happiness, and we do need protection. But like children, we need to trust in our heavenly Father to meet our needs and protect us.
- God's miracles always require us to trust God. Joseph and Mary trusted God and let him be in control, despite accepting that their lives would be hard.
- God's miracles begin when our ability ends.

2) When we say "yes" to God's work in our lives we're in faith saying "yes" to his promises.

- God's promise is a gift to you, but you need to receive it. Mary said "yes" and she received.
- When God makes a promise, he keeps it. His words always accomplish the purpose for which they are sent. (*Isaiah 55:10*)

3) When we say “yes” to God’s work in our lives we’re in faith saying “yes” to his power working in our weakness.

- Like Mary, we might say “How will this be?” I’m trusting your promise, but I don’t have what it takes to do it.
- God can do what is impossible for man. (*Luke 1:37*)
- God’s Holy Spirit works in you and through you to accomplish his purpose. As we step out in faith we’ll experience God’s power accomplishing more than we could ever do in our own human weakness.

OUR RESPONSE

God will work his miracles in your life as you step out in faith, letting him be in charge, and receiving his promises and power.