



Gift of Grace

SERMON SERIES

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19



GIFT OF GRACE; WEEK 2, CHOSEN BY GRACE

The part of the Advent wreath this week is peace and certainly being chosen by grace brings an abundance of peace into ones life.

Gary Watkins is preaching from the Gospel of Luke verses 1:26-38, being "chosen by grace" focusing on the good news in which is being brought to you and I.

Read Luke 1:25-38 and ask these questions:

- What is the context behind this text?
- What can you observe in the text?
- How is Luke setting up his Gospel?

Opening Questions

- What stands out to you the most about this story?
- what stood out to you most about Pastor Gary's message?
- How does this impact you directly?

SEE BELOW FOR
ONE
COMMENTARY
ON THIS TOPIC.

What Mary was about to hear has changed the aeons of time forever. To a young maiden engaged to Joseph come the words of comfort and promise: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call him Jesus" (1:30-31).

The name "Jesus" would have special meaning for her and all Israelites, because it is derived from a Hebrew word that means "savior" and signifies the promise of one who saves God's people. Not only will Mary conceive a child in a way never heard of before, but the child will play a special role in the salvation of all God's people. Hear the message of the angels: "To you is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (2:11).

In Jesus, the fulfillment of the ages has come. The Messiah, so longed for in the history of God's people, brings together the reign of David and the promise of life to the family of Jacob/Israel. Thus it is no wonder that Mary responds: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (1:34).

The wonderful exchange between Mary and the angel Gabriel continues to express God's pure and simple gift to Mary: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God" (1:35). Within this single verse, we have the basis why the Christian faith is centered in the triune God. All three persons are present in the God we confess as "the Most High," in Jesus Christ "the Son of God," and the overshadowing presence of "the Holy Spirit."

Paul S. Berge



DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP

- In light of the commentary above, what do you think was going through Mary's mind?
 - What was the importance of Jesus coming in this manner?
- Why do you think the author chose to tell the story in this manner?
- How do you see a through line of being chosen by grace in this text (& commentary)?
- In what ways will you look out for peace through the grace given to you this week?

