

JESUS CAME TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR US

Luke 1 26:38

Monday, March 25, 2019

Verse 26 "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged 27 to a man whose name was Joseph, of the home of David. The virgin's name was Mary, and he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ... 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word."

How many wait until the last minute to shop for Christmas gifts? We have known it was coming for a year yet we procrastinate. We do this with many aspects of our lives.

Scripture leaves us no doubt that God being a long-range planner - he can determine a whole series of events to come to maturity in his own good time. In fact, he has done this for the benefit of us all – planning, even before the beginning of the world, for us to become sisters and brothers of Jesus. For the grand plan to come to completion, the cooperation of Mary was needed. And that is why the devotion of the faithful has long believed that Mary had to be specially privileged.

Mary, the young girl of no status, from the village of Nazareth, an utterly insignificant place is singled out, called, chosen, and overshadowed with God's Spirit. Her response moves from one of fear, to total trust in God's inscrutable designs.

Total trust in God! What does it take to accept him in our own lives with the birth and resurrection of his Son, for our sins? Many of us have difficulty finding a gift for another much less accepting the magnificent gift from God.

Mary immediately offers her acceptance of God's plan for her to be the mother of Jesus. She gets reassurance in answer to a query - the Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of the Most High will over-shadow her.

Perhaps Mary is helped to 'pull herself together' by the news that even the aged Elizabeth has been favored with a child - Mary then knows that the Lord has begun to take a hand not just in her own life, but in the course of events in the world as a whole.

Some find it hard to select a gift out of Love in remembrance of the reason for the season. In one night Mary said, "Here I Am!"

Where are you?

Prayer: Lord, as we approach Easter Sunday, we celebrate the sacrifice Mary made to be available to do Your will for her life. Even though she was afraid, young and naïve, still she agreed to be part of Your great plan for her life. We pray to accept Your plan for our lives also. In Jesus name, Amen

Greg Smith

LKD Certified Lay Speaker

Wayside UMC

gsmith26187@gmail.com