

Reflection of Monday 30 March 2020

*Luke 1: 26-38*

*<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "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. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

I remember watching what was happening in China a couple months ago and thinking how difficult it was for the people and businesses. I prayed for the people of China and hoped the best for them. Same too when we started hearing about the virus in Italy. For the life of me, I cannot understand how I didn't begin to prepare for the virus to hit the United States. As I reflect on those carefree days when we went about our daily routines without a worry, I wonder what if we had spent some time preparing for the situation we now face. Would we have done things to get technology up and running sooner? Would we have prepared our churches, homes, and businesses in different ways?

Of course, I know that you can't second guess the past and ultimately it doesn't change anything. Perhaps we can learn from it for the future. Although, I hope we never have to face something like this again. As I ponder these things I began to think about Mary. When the angel came to Mary and she was told that we would give birth to our Lord and Savior. To a poor, teenage girl in the middle of nowhere it must have sounded unbelievable. How could she possibly prepare for such a birth? Did she understand the magnitude of what was happening to her and what she would mean to all future people? I suspect not at all.

Mary's words in the magnificent give me peace and comfort at this time. We couldn't have possibly prepared for what we are facing in this pandemic. Even if we had tried, I doubt that any of us would have understood the magnitude of what stood before us. I pray that we may receive Mary's peace, acceptance, and willingness to do as God was calling her to do. May we be equally as willing to respond to God today.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne