

**CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!**  
**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent – Waiting in Messy Joy

December 15, 2020

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Meditation:

The angel Gabriel has just told Mary the following:

- You are highly favored (v 28)
- Do not be afraid (v 30)
- You found favor with God (v 31)
- You will give birth to a son (v 31b)
- \* He will be great (v 32) and will be called son of the Most High
- \* The Lord will give him the throne of David ( v 32b)
- \* And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end (v 33)

Mary says:

- “How can this be, since I am a virgin.” (v 34)

Angel says:

- “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you (v 35). Even Elizabeth will have a child in her old age (v 36); for nothing is impossible with God.” (v37)

Now focus on this.... In just a few short minutes Gabriel’s message to Mary has gone from a blessing to a very complicated situation. It just got messy!

- Baby = Joy; but unwed mother = shame, ridicule, rejection.
- Baby = Savior for the world, a King, the Redeemer; but an unwed mother (in Jesus’ culture) = death.

Mary’s reply, “I am the Lord’s servant,” (v 38). In other words---Mary says, “bring it on!”

Question #1

Are you ready to say, “bring it on?” Are you ready to follow Jesus so closely that you are willing and ready to be ridiculed, harassed, maybe even put to death? Why or why not?

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Question #2

Perhaps your life seems messy, complicated. May this Advent season help you to be like Mary, and say, I am the Lord’s servant. Take that step of faith and know that the Holy Spirit is with you. What situation in your life do you need to give to God?

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**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, help us to be obedient to you. Let us give up holding on to all the troubles, the complicated. We pray we can be bold, and with joy, bring it all to the feet of Jesus. Let us be ready to say, "God I have made a mess of things, and I need your help. Forgive me where I have failed you, and teach me to wait in joy for your direction in all the areas of my life. Amen