

## Reflection Questions: Luke 1:26-38

For the message, "Nothing is Impossible with God" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on December 9, 2018

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 1:26-38

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** 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 father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

**35** And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### **Key Quotes:**

- Napoleon Bonaparte: "I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force! Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."
- Larry King, CNN's "Larry King Live," was once asked who he would most like to interview from all history. "Jesus Christ....I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me."
- Phillip Ryken, "Jesus had to be born of a woman to be a man. But if he had been the physical offspring of Joseph, then he would have been nothing more than a man. He is virgin birth, his divine conception by the Spirit—these things were necessary for the incarnation. Only the virgin birth preserves the humanity *and* the deity of Jesus Christ. His conception by the Spirit points to his deity. His birth from a woman points to his humanity. One person, two natures—a divine nature and a human nature.... Fallen humanity could not produce its own Savior; he had to come from somewhere outside, by way of divine initiative and intervention. Therefore, God sent Jesus into the world as the perfect Son of God, born without sin."
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, "Christ, by highest heav'n adored / Christ, the everlasting Lord! / Late in time behold him come / offspring of the Virgin's womb / veiled in flesh the Godhead see / hail th'incarnate Deity / pleased as man with men to dwell / Jesus our Emmanuel / Hark! the herald angels sing / "Glory to the newborn King."

## **Bottom Line:**

- The gospel writer Luke puts the virgin birth of Jesus front and center as he prepares to introduce us to the coming King who will be nothing less than great, and whose kingdom will no know end. Luke does this because he wants us to grapple with and come to grips with the utter uniqueness of Jesus.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- Luke puts the virgin birth of Jesus front and center in his biography of Jesus. Do you find it difficult or easy to believe in the virgin birth? Has this always been the case? Explain.
- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus, both in terms of who he is and—in the words of the angel—what he was born for?
- Mary's life was interrupted by God's grace. God literally graced her by rewriting the narrative of her life. No doubt, this grace gifted to Mary to bear the Messiah is a once-in-history kind of event. Nevertheless, do you believe that God in his grace has the right to "interrupt" your life and rewrite it for his purposes? When do you find it easy to believe that? When do you find it most difficult to believe?

### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- How does this text—as mind-boggling as it is—help us understand why its essential for us to get the identity of Jesus correct? Compare the above quote by Phillip Ryken.
- How is Mary's response to the angel, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word," serve as a good response of our community of faith to God's will for our lives? How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? What would we need to change? What would we need to repent of?

### **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- What questions do you think people in our city would ask of this text? And what kinds of questions do you think this text would of people to consider? Compare the above quote by Larry King.
- The pastor suggested that if Genesis 1:1 is true, then nothing—not even a virgin birth—is impossible with God. How does this help us break down objections to the virgin birth of Jesus.

## **CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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