

**Verdun-LaSalle Baptist Church**  
**Sunday - May 15th, 2016**  
**Morning Message**

**“The Announcement”**

***29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.***

***Luke 1:29-31***

*As we are working our way through the Gospel of Luke*

- we are discovering more and more*
- that these were unusual times*
- for the men and women who experienced what was going on around them.*

*We've already noted that it has been 300 years*

- since God has spoken*
- there has not been a prophet on the earth*
- to speak to the people on behalf of God*
- there have been no miracles.*

*Since the last prophet has spoken*

- it has been absolute silence from God.*

*It has been very much what the author of Hebrews*

- begins his letter by saying:*

## ***Hebrews 1:1-2***

***1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;***

*Suddenly, now God has broken His silence*

- *and He has done it by sending His messenger Gabriel*
- *the one who comes “from the very presence of God”*

*And already in this first chapter of Luke*

- *he has appeared 2 times in a 6 month period*
- *with messages from God.*

*First to Zacharias in the Temple*

- *as he is offering incense*
- *to tell him that his prayers have been answered*
- *and that Elizabeth his wife will bear him a son*
- *who will be called John*
- *he will be a source of joy and gladness*
- *and many will rejoice at his birth*
- *he will be great in the sight of the Lord*
- *He shall drink neither wine nor strong drink*
- *he will be filled with the HS from his mother’s womb*
- *he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.*
- *he will go before the Messiah with the spirit and power of Elijah*
- *to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children*

- and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just
- and make ready a people prepared for the Lord!

*That's an amazing job description*

- coming from heaven, from the throne of God
- through Gabriel, to Zacharias
- when they haven't heard from God in 300 years!

*It's like a turbo starting of events*

- after a long period of quiet.

*And we know from our knowledge of Scripture*

- that this is indeed a period
- when God is ushering in the era of the Messiah
- Jesus the Saviour is about to come into the world
- and everything is about to change.

*Men are about to hear - in a very clear manner*

- what God expects of them (obedience)
- what God has provided for them (salvation)
- and what God promises them (eternal life)

*It was period of unusual, uncommon and unique events!*

*Things were about to happen*

- that had never previously happened in history
- things were about to be said
- that man had never heard of before
- it was an unusual, uncommon and unique time in history.

*Now six months after his apparition to Zacharias*

- *Gabriel is sent from God again*
- *this time to an obscure village in Galilee*
- *to an unknown young woman*
- *to bring her a word from God*
- *that will change her life and the lives of many around her forever!*

*And by the way that is what the Word of God does to us doesn't it?*

- *when God by His Spirit opens up His Word to us*
- *we are forever changed!*

*We don't ever see life in the same way*

- *it's like looking at life through a different lens*
- *it's like going from black and white to color*
- *everything has a deeper more beautiful sense.*

*We suddenly see things*

- *the way God sees them*
- *and has forever meant for them to be seen.*

*Last Sunday we noted*

- *the **extraordinary greeting** that Mary received from Gabriel.*

*It came first of all from an extraordinary Messenger*

- *none other than Gabriel who is sent by God to Mary*
- *for this private meeting with her and her alone.*

*That's why many think that Luke*

- *possibly interviewed Mary in order to give us this detailed account.*
- *because she only could have known many of these things*
- *that we read about in Luke's record of the conception*
- *and birth of the Lord Jesus.*

*We also noted last week*

- *the Extraordinary circumstances*
- *the greeting and announcement is made to a virgin*
- *who is espoused to Joseph of the house of David.*

*The message to Zacharias*

- *was that his aged and barren wife would bear a son*
- *an amazing thing but not previously unheard of.*
- *other elderly, barren women had been blessed by God in the past with children.*

*But never has there been a virgin*

- *who is told that she will bear a son*
- *without the aid of a man.*

*And then we noted an Extraordinary Blessing*

- *it's a cause for joy!*
- *Rejoice, highly favoured one*
- *the Lord is with you*
- *and blessed are you among women.*

*Mary is graced by God*

- *chosen by Him to be the mother of His Son, Jesus*

- *the Lord will be with her, in this difficult time*
- *and she will be blessed among all women*
- *with this great privilege and responsibility!*

*Well, this morning let's take a bit of time*

- *to look at the announcement that Gabriel made to Mary.*

*It's familiar to most of us*

- *yet it never loses it's beauty*
- *worded as only HS could say it.*

*Let's begin by looking at Mary's reaction*

- *to this:*

### **1. An Unusual Greeting (vs. 29)**

**29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.**

*Luke records that when Mary saw Gabriel*

- *she was troubled at his saying.*

*So let's just keep in mind*

- *that at this point all Mary has heard are the words:*

**Luke 1:28**

**"Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"**

*First of all, culturally it was very inappropriate*

- for a man to be found alone with a woman at any time.
- and particularly if that woman was engaged or betrothed to another man
- it would have been an affront to Joseph had he found out
- that a man was found alone with his betrothed
- and Mary would have felt very uncomfortable in the situation.

*So this might help us to understand*

- Mary's reaction to what she saw and heard.

*We generally depict such a scene*

- by portraying Gabriel as being back lit with brilliant light
- or being semi-transparent
- but nothing in the text indicates that to be the case.

*Mary in fact does not react to his appearance*

- but rather to what he says.

*The text tells us that:*

***she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.***

*The word troubled indicates*

- that she was agitated or totally disturbed by what he said
- that she was "highly favored, that the Lord was with her,
- and that she was blessed among women."

*It's like she would immediately think*

- *“Okay, what does this mean?”*
- *if an messenger comes from God to tell me*
- *that I am “Favored, protected and blessed”*
- *“surely something else is coming!”*

*Simply speaking, Mary’s mind was now racing*  
- *trying to figure out what all of this was about.*

*This was not the normal way of addressing someone*  
- *and there had to be more to what had just been said.*

*The only comparison I can think of*  
- *is if I was working for a company*  
- *and the boss called me into the office and said:*  
- *“Gerry, I’ve got some exciting news for you*  
- *you are highly considered by the company*  
- *and we want to encourage you and give you something*  
- *that no one else has!”*

*I guarantee you my mind would be racing*  
- *thinking about what was about to be said to me.*  
- *to say that I would be agitated would be putting it mildly.*  
- *and i would be immediately trying to think*  
- *of what the next words would be.*

*This is what Mary must have felt*  
- *everything about this greeting was unusual*  
- *and so something very unusual must be about to happen.*

*And something unusual was about to happen*



*In fact Gabriel was about to make  
- a very:*

## **2. An Uncommon Declaration (vs. 30)**

**30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you  
have found favour with God.**

*Gabriel knew immediately and exactly*  
*- what the state of Mary's mind was*  
*- and as is customary of angels appearing to men*  
*- he told her "Do not be afraid"*

*Throughout the Scriptures*  
*- we discover how men react to divine encounters*  
*- generally they are afraid, often they fall on their faces to  
the ground!*  
*- they are usually seized with fear.*

*This shed's some light*  
*- on the ridiculous accounts we hear today*  
*- of people who claim to have had divine encounters.*

*I remember the story of one man*  
*- who claimed Jesus often came to him while he was  
shaving in the morning*  
*- to reveal God's will for him for that day!*

*While by contrast, the Bible records that the Apostle Paul*  
*- fell to the ground upon just hearing the voice of Jesus*

- *this man says he would have a friendly discussion with Jesus!*

*This is only one example*

- *of many stories we hear today*
- *of bizarre experiences people are having*
- *that just don't line up with Scripture.*

*Meeting with God is no ordinary experience*

- *the appearance of the Lord would be accompanied*
- *with a great sense of His holiness*
- *and our immediate understanding of our unworthiness.*

*Mary no doubt must have thought*

- *Why? who am I that God should send such a messenger to me.*
- *why should God pay such attention to one such as I?*

*She as much as says that so clearly in her Magnificat*

- *as she expressed her heart regarding what God has done of her.*

***Luke 1:46-49***

***46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.***

*Nor did she publicizes her experience*

- or try to cash in on it like so many do today.
- like the latest books on dying and going to heaven
- and then coming back!

*Every time I hear of these things*

- I'm reminded of the rich man and Lazarus
- remember the rich man in Hades asked Abraham
- to send Lazarus from the dead to his brothers
- so they could hear him and not have to go to that horrible place.
- many people think that some kind of message like this would convince people to repent

*But notice what Abraham replied:*

***Luke 16:29-31***

***29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'***

*But getting back to Gabriel and Mary*

- Gabriel reassures Mary that she need not fear
- this is not an announcement of judgment
- but rather of great blessing!

*“Do not be afraid, Gabriel tells her, for you have found favor with God”*

*You have found grace with God*

- *and God has shed his grace upon you Mary*
- *you are the beneficiary of the merciful kindness of God.*

*I can only imagine Mary's response to those words*

- *that she a humble country girl*
- *should be the beneficiary of such grace*
- *of such unmerited blessing from the hand of God*
- *must surely have overwhelmed her with joy!*

*But lest we think this to have been a unique declaration*

- *let me remind you*
- *that we also have found favor with God!*

*We also have had the grace of God shed upon us*

- *Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 2:8-9*
- *that it is by the virtue of grace or favor of God*
- *that we have been saved.*

***Ephesians 2:8-9***

***8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

*God has mercifully extended His grace to us*

- *so that through faith in His Son the Lord Jesus*
- *we might be saved*
- *not by meritorious works on our part*
- *but by grace and favor on His part!*

*And so we can know something of the joy*

- *that Mary experienced when she heard*
- *that she was highly favored, highly graced by God!*

*Finally after this Unusual Greeting*

- *this Uncommon Declaration*
- *Gabriel describes what will be:*

### **3. An Unique Conception (vs. 31)**

***31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.***

*Immediately these words would have struck a cord with Mary*

- *we know that she was familiar with the OT Scriptures*
- *a quick study of her Magnificat show that clearly.*

*And upon hearing the angel tell her*

- *that she would conceive in her womb*
- *and bring forth a Son*
- *and call His name Jesus*

*Her mind would have quickly remembered*

- *the prophet Isaiah in:*

***Isaiah 7:14***

***14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.***

*Matthew picks up that theme in his gospel  
- and says in:*

***Matthew 1:22-23***

***22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."***

*It seems very likely that Mary would understand this  
- because later she questions Gabriel  
- about how this will happen since she does not know a man.*

*We understand what Mary means here  
- she certainly does know a man - since she is engaged to Joseph  
- but she does not know him in the sense of intimacy yet  
- since their marriage is still in the betrothal period.*

*And so Mary already understands  
- that this conception will be unique, like no other in history.*

*She may also have realized  
- that this announcement referred to the very first declaration of the gospel  
- way back in **Genesis 3:15**  
- when God cursed the serpent.*

*A game of blame have begun in the garden*  
- when Adam and Eve were discovered to have sinned  
- Adam blamed Eve, then Eve blamed the serpent!

*And God spoke to the serpent and said to him:*

***Genesis 3:15***

***15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."***

*Here is the first description of the Gospel of salvation*  
- in the OT.

*The enmity between Satan and his seed*  
- the ungodly, children of the devil  
- and Mary's seed, Jesus and the redeemed of all time.

*Satan will bruise Jesus*  
- bruise his heel  
- but Christ would also bruise Satan  
- he would bruise His head!  
- the word bruise in Genesis means to crush or snap!

*And believe me, the outcome of a crushed heel*  
- and a crushed head is very different.

*No doubt Mary would have understood all of this*  
- and been amazed and taken back  
- by the words that she heard.

*She knew by now that something wonderful*

*- was about to happen!*

*- something unique in the history of mankind*

*-and that she would be apart of it.*

*And this Son that would be born*

*- in such an unusual manner*

*- through such a unique conception*

*- was to be called Jesus - Iesous - Jehovah is Salvation.*

*And as Paul reminds us*

*- whoever will call upon His name will be saved!*

*So we have in Luke's account:*

*An Unusual Greeting*

*An Uncommon Declaration*

*A Unique Conception.*

*Permit me to take that and apply it to us*

*- because I can't help again but see the parallels*

*- that are so clear in our lives as believers.*

*We also have had an Unusual Greeting*

*- God at one point in our lives*

*- has revealed Himself to us*

*- and we were troubled or agitated by this*

*- suddenly God spoke to us and stirred up our lives*

*- until finally we had to make a choice*



*- He called us to be His very own.*

*And it went something like this:*

*Rejoice, highly favored one, God's grace has called you,  
the Lord is with you and you are blessed.*

*We also have had an uncommon declaration made to us:*

*- And behold, you will be born again, and become the  
Temple of the living God!*

*And we also have had a unique conception*

*- "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things  
are passed away, behold all things have become new."  
- we have been born again not of blood, nor of the will of  
the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

*So we can rejoice this morning if we know Christ*

*- we can rejoice at the announcement of Gabriel to Mary  
- but also at the announcement that the HS has made to us  
- when out of God's grace - He called us to Himself.*

*We like Mary are unworthy*

*- we have sinned and fallen short of God's requirements  
- and the payment for such failure is eternal hell and  
judgment*

*But God sent His Son into the world*

*- to live the life we could never live  
- in perfect obedience to God's law*

*- and in so doing satisfying God's demands.*

*And now God offers to all those who will repent of their sins*

- and turn in faith to Jesus Christ*
- the forgiveness of their sins*
- and the hope of everlasting life.*

*And that's why Jesus had to come into the world*

- to save sinners like you and me.*
- as Paul told Timothy in:*

***1 Timothy 1:15***

***This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief***