

A View From Above, Bill Warrick
December 4, 2011

1. If an angel prophesied to you that your child was going to be “great,” what attributes, traits, or contributions to the world, would come to mind?

2. Read Luke 1:26-38. Verse 26 gives us a time indicator. To what does this refer? **Elizabeth’s pregnancy.** How does Mary’s response to Gabriel’s message parallel the response of Zechariah last week? **They both seem to doubt based on physical constraints.** What do we learn about Joseph in verse 27? **He was of the lineage of David.** How is Mary described? **A Virgin, one who had found favor with God, engaged to Joseph.** What other character in the Bible is greeted in in nearly the exact same manner as Mary was in verse 28? **Gideon in Judges 6:11-12**

3. How does the angel encourage Mary in verses 28-31? Have you ever experienced God’s grace or favor in an unusual way? Talk about it. How did it feel? How did you respond?

4. In verse 32 Gabriel says that Jesus will be “great.” Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What do these four things have in common? **They all have to do with kingship or kingdoms: “Son of the Most High,” “give him the throne of . . . David,” “reign over the house of Jacob,” “of this kingdom there will be no end.”**

5. Read on in Luke 1, from vs. 39-56. What progression do you see in Mary’s responses in verses 29, 34, and 38? How do we know that Mary has responded to this promise in faith? **Elizabeth declares it in verse 45, and Mary proclaims the promise of Jesus in her song, long before He is born.** Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith? What was the situation?

6. What do you think the angel’s statement in verse 37 meant for Mary? What could it mean for you today?

7. This Christmas, what concessions of faith, or confusions in faith, are you feeling? How have you seen God’s plan include, not only disgrace as we saw last week, but confusion as we see this week in Mary.

Pray for the concerts this weekend and all of those who will come and be exposed to the message of Christ amidst confusion and disgrace in their own lives. Pray that God might be able to allow them to receive it with faith and know God’s favor and love for them.