

## Act 3 – Who, Me?

*“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God.’ <sup>31</sup>You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, <sup>33</sup>and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.’ <sup>34</sup>‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’ <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing is impossible with God.’ <sup>38</sup>‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’”*  
- Luke 1:26-38

In this Series, We Are Learning That...

1. The events preceding the Christmas story are critical to understanding and appreciating Christmas.
2. Jesus must be the focus of Christmas for us to celebrate properly.

### Who Was the Angel?

The angel was Gabriel, and he is a messenger. He stands in God’s presence.

*“The angel answered, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.’”*  
- Luke 1:19

The angel gives his message and departs.

Christmas is not about angels.

### Who Was Elizabeth?

She was Mary’s relative, and she had never had a child. Now, she was past child-bearing years.

However, through a miracle much like that of Sarah of the Old Testament, she was now 6 months along in a pregnancy which will produce John the Baptist.

Christmas is not about Elizabeth.

### Who Was Joseph?

He was a righteous and kind man.

*“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”*  
- Matthew 1:19

Even though the baby wasn’t his child, he believed an angel’s message and took Mary as his wife. Christmas is not about Joseph.

### Who Was Mary?

She was a young lady whom God chose to bear His Son.

She was pledged to be married and was a virgin. *(That is affirmed three times in this text.)*

She was afraid of the angel at first but quickly recovered and asked how she could possibly have a baby.

She declared that she was God’s servant (handmaiden, *doulē*) and that whatever God wanted was okay with her.

*“And Mary said, ‘Lo, the maid-servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to thy saying,’ and the messenger went away from her.”*  
- Luke 1:38 (Young’s)

*“Because He looked on the lowliness of His maid-servant...”*  
- Luke 1:48 (Young’s)

If Mary is the “handmaiden” of God... . . .

- She cannot be the one who hears and answers prayer.
- She cannot be the “Queen of Heaven.”

*“The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.”*  
- Jeremiah 7:18

- And Christmas is not about Mary.

### Who Is God?

He is the Most High who gave His Son to the world, and who gave the eternal throne to His Son. For Him, nothing is impossible!

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*  
- John 3:16

*“For nothing is impossible with God.”*  
- Luke 1:37

He is the Holy Spirit who empowers people to do the will of God.

*“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”*  
- Luke 1:35

He is a baby, the Holy One from birth, who was born to die in our place. He is an eternal king, and Christmas is about Him!

### Two Lessons

1. Mary’s attitude of trust is one that all of us should emulate.
2. We can best celebrate Christmas by remembering the God who made it happen.

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