

mary :: Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7 | 20 December 2015

Facing the Unexpected

Mary was an unlikely candidate for birthing the miracle of God, but the greatest challenge she met was overcoming her fear of the unknown.

What is YOUR greatest challenge right now?

What fear of the unknown is keeping YOU from realizing the miracle God's promised?

Day 1: Read Luke 1:26-38

What did the angel mean when he told Mary that she was highly favored? Why would Mary have been troubled at his words? Is it easy for you to believe that God wants to do great things through your life? Why or why not?

Day 2: Read Matthew 1:18-25

What do you think was going through Joseph's mind when he found out Mary was pregnant? What sort of fears and doubts do you think he was wrestling with? How do you relate? What are some things we can learn from Joseph's character?

Day 3: Read Luke 1:39-56

When do you think Mary really believed that what the angel said was going to happen? Whom does God use to speak into your life? Whose life do you need to speak into?

Day 4: Read Exodus 3:1-14 and 4:1-17

What are some of the excuses that Moses makes to God? What do you think is at the root of these excuses? How does God respond to them? What are some of the excuses you are in the habit of making, and how would God respond to you?

Day 5: Read Zephaniah 3:14-20

What does this passage say to us about God's love? How does **verse 17** speak to you? Who is someone that you can share this verse with today?

Day 6: Read John 9:1-38

Often we allow our perceived inadequacies to disqualify ourselves from being used by God. How did God use the man Jesus healed despite his limited understanding of who Jesus was? In what ways does this encourage you?

Day 7: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

God's strength is demonstrated through our weakness, and often the reasons we disqualify ourselves from being used by God are the very things that God will work through to change the world. How could God use your "weaknesses" to accomplish great things through your life?

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