

# Readings

## Scripture

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

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

- Luke 1:26-38 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

The baby in the manger came to be King, and he would not settle for anything else. That infant was the King of kings and Lord of lords. He would grow to be a man, a perfect man, who would talk again and again about the kingdom he came to establish; but he would do much, much more than just talk. The King would die as a criminal, so that criminals against his rule would be welcome into his throne room and live with all the rights and privileges of being members of his royal family. One of the glorious ironies of the biblical story is that the King – the king that we willingly love, worship, and serve – had to first die. Ordinarily the death of a conquering king is the end of the story. But the King came to conquer by dying for those over whom he would establish his rule. This is grace: the King died to dethrone kings so that he would be their King forever and ever. The baby wasn't wearing a crown and had none of the trappings of royalty, but don't be misled. He came to be King, and his kingship is your salvation.

- Paul David Tripp, *Come Let Us Adore Him* (December 11)

# Sermon Outline

**Born of the Virgin Mary**  
Luke 1:26-38

*What Child is This?*  
Brad Anderson

*God uses Mary's life to reveal the gracious heart of a servant... (Luke 1:38)*

### What does Mary's life reveal to us about the gracious heart of a servant?

**That grace makes a servant reflective...** (Luke 1:26-34)

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**That grace makes a servant responsive...** (Luke 1:35-38)

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### Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is the most unusual birth announcement you have ever received? If God told you that you were to be a parent 9 months from now, how would you feel?
- What does Gabriel say to Mary? How does that compare with what he said to Zechariah (Luke 1:13-17)? How are the responses of Mary and Zechariah unique?
- How does Elizabeth's pregnancy encourage Mary?
- Compare Luke's account to Matthew 1:18-25. What else do you learn about Jesus? About Joseph?
- How does Mary's life reveal the gracious heart of a servant?
- How has the grace of Jesus caused you to become both more reflective and more responsive over the course of your life?