

Sermon Summary – Third Sunday of Advent

Mary: The Simple Girl at the Center of Everything

Luke 1:26–38

Advent reminds us that God often chooses the smallest places and the most ordinary people to do extraordinary things. When the angel Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth—a small, forgotten village in Galilee—it is a shocking reminder that God overlooks no one. Mary is young, poor, and unimportant by worldly standards, yet heaven calls her “highly favored.”

The fallen condition we share with Mary is our difficulty believing that God truly sees us, remembers us, and can work through the ordinary and the impossible. Like her, we often whisper, “*How can this be?*” when God’s promises seem too large for our reality. We may trust in theory that God has good plans, yet struggle to imagine how those plans could unfold in our own lives, communities, or churches.

But the angel’s message reveals the heart of the gospel: “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.*” The miracle of the incarnation is that God does not remain distant. God enters our obscurity. The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. The same Spirit that overshadowed Mary now dwells in us, bringing new life where there once was only doubt or despair.

Through Jesus Christ, our “How can this be?” becomes God’s “Watch and see.” Christ is the proof that we are not forgotten, that divine love is still being born in hidden places and quiet hearts. Advent invites us to say with Mary, “*Let it be with me according to your word,*” trusting that God’s favor rests even on those the world forgets.

This Sunday we light the Candle of Love, remembering that God’s love does not pass us by. It finds us—right where we are—and asks only that we say yes.

*Darling, Daniel. *The Characters of Christmas: The Unlikely People Caught Up in the Story of Jesus* (p. 42). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.