



Advent: Don't Open 'Til Christmas

Text: Luke 1:26-38 (page 855-856)

Pastor Chad Ellenburg

God, it took you forever to get here. (Luke 1:26-27)

I'm not who you think I am. (Luke 1:28-33)

I believe, but help my unbelief. (Luke 1:34-37)

Let it happen. (Luke 1:38)

Food for Thought for the week of December 3, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Four hundred years is a long time for silence. How do you respond when it feels like God is withholding His answer?
2. Why did God choose the small, the insignificant, and the unseen to give the greatest message in the history of History? Why not announce it so the whole world can hear?
3. Mary reacts in the typical way to an angelic visit, with fear, but why is she really afraid? What are the words that cause her alarm?
4. Mary doesn't think she deserves this message. Neither do we. Is she correct?
5. How is Mary's doubt and unbelief different than her relative Zechariah's? How can we approach God with doubt that has a little faith mixed in?
6. It seems a little risky to put the hope of humanity on a young girl tucked away in Nazareth. Why is this a good plan? (Hint: How does Gabriel answer these questions?)
7. Does faith require knowing all the details? Can we trust God's plan even if it seems crazy?
8. In what areas of your life are you hearing God ask you to respond the way Mary did?

December 3, 2017

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