

December 12th

You are going about your daily life, and an angel appears. And your whole life flashes in front of your eyes as you realize you are being asked to participate in something miraculous.

Luke 1:31 - *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS*

An ordinary girl from an unrespected town. Now called to walk into the miraculous and become part of history.

And just as Zacharias looked at the physical, so does Mary.

Luke 1:34 – *Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not _____ a _____?”*

Zacharias asked “How shall I know this?” (18). Mary asks “How can this be?” (34). Both were offered a part in the redemption story about to unfold. Both were promised something impossible. Both immediately looked at their current physical abilities and asked “how?”. Zacharias was silenced for his question as God took complete control of his tongue. But this time, there is a different response. Mary is not chastised. Mary is not corrected. Mary is not silenced. Instead, she is met with extraordinary grace and gracious compassion.

Luke 1:35 – *And the angel answered and said to her, “The _____ will come upon you, and the _____ of the Highest will _____ you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of _____.”*

Mary is given an answer. Mary is given an explanation. Mary is given a handhold for her questioning faith.

Luke 1:37 – *For with God nothing will be _____*

God knows your current life situation. God knows this is not physically possible for you. God knows you cannot do this on your own.

And God is faithful. You know this. But there is current, personal evidence that touches your life that can help you fully believe.

Luke 1:36 – *Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also _____ a son in her old age; and this is now the _____ month for her who was called _____*

If you need proof that the impossible is coming to pass, look no further than your cousin.

Going Deeper:

1. *How does verse 37 give us hope in ALL situations? What does it tell us about who God is?*

2. *Why does Mary ask the question she does in verse 34? (Why doesn't she ask something like "why me?" or "are you sure about this?")*

3. *Why does the angel give Mary a different response and reaction than Zacharias received?*

4. *How have you experienced the Holy Spirit guiding and helping your life's journey?*

5. *What "limitation" or life circumstance do you have that you think God cannot work through for His plans and purposes? How does it affect your faith?*

6. *How do you think God reacts to our questions? Is He surprised by them? What insight does Hebrews 4:14-16 give us?*
