

December 9th

Now it has been six months since Zacharias spoke to the angel. Six months of Elizabeth being pregnant with the new Elijah. Six months of God waiting patiently to put the next part of His plan in motion.

So where does He start? With the promise He made in **Isaiah 7:14** – “...Behold, the virgin shall _____”

A young, inexperienced girl. At least 13 years of age, probably under 18 years of age. Preparing for marriage. Possibly betrothed. One still young and naïve and hopeful girl.

And God found her.

Luke 1:27b - The virgin's name was _____

When she woke up that morning, did she have any idea she would be part of the fulfillment of God's promises? Did she think God would see her as strong enough, brave enough, and humble enough to say “yes” to Him? Did she ever consider that God would think her worthy – and able – to be part of His big redemptive plan?

I do not think it is conceited to say “no”. I think she got up and went about her day as normal. Chores, prayers, etc. I do not think she ever believed she would be visited by the being who shows up.

Who shows up? (**Luke 1:26**)

Where? (**Luke 1:26**)

What is the reputation of Nazareth? (**John 1:46**)

Yet this is God's choice.

- **Matthew 21:11** – This is Jesus, the prophet from **Nazareth** of Galilee
- **Mark 1:9** - It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from **Nazareth** of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan
- **Mark 16:6** - ... You seek Jesus of **Nazareth**, who was crucified. He is risen! ...
- **Luke 24:19** - ... The things concerning Jesus of **Nazareth**, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people
- **John 18:5** - They answered Him, “Jesus of **Nazareth**.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” ...

So Gabriel is fully part of God's plan. He announced good news to Zacharias. And now he comes to Mary, the chosen girl who is completely unaware of what is about to happen.

Going Deeper:

1. *Do you expect God to show up in your daily life? To what extent?*

2. *Do you think YOU are part of God’s plans for the earth? How?*

3. *Why does God choose a small, “rural” town like Nazareth as the start of His redemptive plan? Why not a big city like Rome or Bethlehem?*

4. *Has God ever sent you a Gabriel – a messenger – to speak the truth you needed to hear? What happened?*

5. *Remember back when you were 16. How would you have reacted to find an angel of God speaking to you of being part of God’s promises?*

6. *Nazareth was considered “hillbilly” (backwater) and denigrated by people in those days. How have people falsely judged you? How did it affect you?*
