

Recap of 12/6/20 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Luke 1:26-56):

1. Luke 1:26-56 is the record of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of God's choice of her to be mother to Messiah. Mary is perplexed as to how this could happen since she was a virgin. Conception would come about by the Holy Spirit's act of creation/generation in Mary's body.

2. Why this miraculous conception/virgin birth?

-the fulfillment of prophecy, Isaiah 7:14.

-the Savior must be both human (so He could die) and divine (so that His death meant something).

-because of Jesus' pre-existence (He did not come into being at conception).

-so that Jesus could take on true humanity without diminishing His deity.

3. Mary is called "highly favored" which means that she was a recipient of God's grace, not a source or dispenser of grace. God is bestowing on her special favor.

-"This was neither a recognition of sinlessness in Mary nor a promise of a reward for her own perfections, but rather an announcement that she was receiving special grace from the Lord. The worship of Mary is not warranted by the simple salutation of the angel here recorded....Much as we may admire and honor the virgin-mother, we may not pray to her or worship her in any way. Mariology is but one form of idolatry. The mother merits all honor but her Son our worship." (Dwight Pentecost)

4. Mary is honored as the mother of Messiah but never worshipped in the Scripture. She is never called "the mother of God" in the Bible.

5. "Mary's unhesitating acceptance showed her devout and obedient character. She was willing to risk disgrace and divorce to comply with God's command." (Merrill C. Tenney)

-"...there was no shrinking on her part from all that the fulfillment of this promise might involve of suspicion and shame and reproach and suffering and even death. Those who believe most firmly in the promises of God, submit most patiently to His providences; they see the glory that surely will succeed the gloom." (Erdman)