

Sermon Based Questions - December 21, 2014

Introduction:

1. Dave mentioned the dangers of paying too much or too little attention to Mary. In what way have you paid too much or too little attention to Mary?
2. Describe an occasion where you received an unexpected honor or unexpected good news. How did you react?

Understanding:

3. In the Sound of Music a lyric says "So somewhere in my youth or childhood I must have done something good". Is this an accurate summary of how grace works? Why or why not?
4. Dave quoted the old hymn, "Amazing Love! How can it be? That thou my God shouldst die for me!" The hymn also says "'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me! 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!" How does this part of the hymn describe what happened to Mary? And how does it describe what happened to you?
5. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." Mary needed to allow God to supernaturally work through her to offer and yield herself to Him. Compare this to Romans 12:1-2. How does these verses connect what happened to Mary to your own day to day Christian life?
6. Read Luke 1:8-20. Compare what happened to Mary and to Zechariah after each was confronted by the angel. Why do you think there was a difference?
7. One commentator said, "Mary was asked to assent to a truth never expressed before (a virginal motherhood). She accepted it with a simple yet daring heart." Do you think this is a good summary of today's scripture? Why or why not?
8. If Mary had said "No" would it have destroyed God's plan of salvation? Why or why not?

Application

9. Right now, Chapel leadership is in the planning process to map out our next three years. Pray that these plans will reflect how God wants to challenge us and not just be very sensible and doable.
10. What is the situation in your life where you need to say: "Lord, I don't know exactly how this is going to work, but I know you've put me here and called me to this. And I'm not going to run away from it; I'm not going to take the easy way out. So my answer is 'Yes.' I'm your servant. Use me however you want."
11. This Christmas, would you ask God to jolt you with being amazed by grace? Allow yourself to be stunned and unsettled by his grace that he gave you when he came to the manger, and then went to the cross.