

The God Who Speaks

Luke 1:26-38

There are several themes that run through Luke's entire Christmas narrative, and even extend into the rest of his gospel

Luke also loves to describe the responses of people to Jesus, because He is inviting us to respond in kind

What?

When God speaks, the inconceivable becomes believable

Little people plus a big God equals the impossible—

Theme 1—God delights to do the unexpected through the most unlikely people of the world, since this reveals even more of His glorious power

Theme 2—What God speaks, He will accomplish, no matter how impossible

Jesus would be born to a virgin, without the involvement of a human father

The child to be born would be God in every way and man in every way

Vs. 37—"no saying will be impossible with God"

Theme 3—Faith believes what God speaks as if it's already happened

Vss. 51-55—here we see the nature of Mary's faith

Hebrews 11:1, NET—Faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see

The Big Question—What does "overshadow" mean?

This statement of the angel's indicates the incredible scope of what God was doing in fulfilling what He had spoken

It's the same word Mark uses in describing the cloud that overshadowed the disciples when Jesus was transfigured

This is a specific reference to the cloud of God's presence that overshadowed the tabernacle in the desert and later the temple

God's presence had left the temple 400 years earlier because of the idolatry of the people

The angel was saying that Mary's body was like a temple, and the glory and presence of the Lord was returning

So What?

The final feature we see again and again in Luke's gospel is his descriptions of the responses of people

Mary responded with humility and submission to the Lord's will and plan

Luke's intention is for us to see Mary's submission and respond in kind

When God invites us to serve Him in a special way, we can always be sure that there's a two-sided principle at work

God gets the credit for the impossible thing He does, and we get the goodness along the way

The final say—the Preacher of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-2, ESV—Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

Now What?

What response is the Lord requiring from you for some impossible thing He wants to do?