

THE IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE

Select Passages • December 23, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

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UNWRAPPING
THE GIFT
OF Jesus

Luke 1:26-38 (NLT) ²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” ³⁴Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” ³⁵The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s now in her sixth month. ³⁷For **nothing is impossible with God.**” ³⁸Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

Matthew 14:13-33 (NLT) ¹³As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵That evening the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶But Jesus said, “That isn’t necessary—you feed them.” ¹⁷“But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!” they answered. ¹⁸“Bring them here,” he said. ¹⁹Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰They all ate as

“Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!”
- 2 Corinthians 9:15

The Christmas story is full of “impossibilities.”

Four Biblical Principles:

- 1) God is GREATER than any problem or issue that we face in life.
✓ See Psalm 46:1
- 2) Our attitude and response to impossible challenges are directly tied to our RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD and the kind of faith we have in God.
✓ See John 14:6

A great faith in God does not guarantee we will always get what we want, but it does guarantee that we will always receive God’s best in our lives and that we can be assured that God will see us through anything we face.



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much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children! ²²Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" ²⁸Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." ²⁹"Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. ³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" ³²When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Psalm 46:1 (NLT) ¹God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

John 14:6 (NLT) ⁶Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

3) When facing the impossible in our lives, it is important to reflect on GOD'S POWER and His faithfulness to us in the past.

What are some ways God has been faithful to you in the past when you faced the "impossible?"

4) When facing the impossible in our lives, we need to stay FOCUSED ON GOD and not on the challenge we face or our human ability to deal with it.

When you have your focus on God and His power, you will experience hope and peace in spite of the challenges you face.

How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

Believe that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

Acknowledge your sins and ask God to forgive you.

Submit yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

Express your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

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