

THE ANNOUNCEMENT STILL STANDS

INTRO / SETUP

- Warm family welcome; honor Pastor Allen.
- Prayer: invite the Holy Spirit as He overshadowed Mary and spoke to Joseph.
- Theme: God makes announcements, and people respond.
- Coffee + Buc-ee's stories: announcements create expectation and reveal what we trust.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN TEST WHAT I TRUST AND REVEAL WHERE I PUT MY CONFIDENCE.

- Before Mary & Joseph, look at Adam & Eve.
- Eden: perfection → serpent whispers "Can you really trust God?"
- Sin leads to hiding, blame, and broken relationship.
- God's "Where are you?" = invitation to confession and honesty.
- Adam & Eve show the first failed response to God's word.

IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR REBELLION, GOD SPOKE A PROMISE OF THE HOPE OF REDEMPTION.

- God promises the Seed who will crush the serpent.
- Cain, Noah, others → false saviors; God stays faithful.
- Prophets give details: virgin, Bethlehem, David's line, suffering servant.
- 400 years of silence.
- Heaven breaks silence with Gabriel's announcement to Mary.

Luke 1:26–38 (NLT primary, CSB where noted)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The 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. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. (CSB) For nothing will be impossible with God. Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18–25

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Luke 1:26–38 (NLT primary, CSB where noted)

³⁹ A few days later, Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.” Luke 1:45 (CSB): “Blessed is the one who has believed that there would be a fulfillment of what the Lord has spoken to them.”

ADAM AND EVE HEARD GOD’S WORD AND RESISTED, BUT MARY AND JOSEPH HEARD GOD’S WORD AND TRUSTED.

- Mary: vulnerable, misunderstood, at great cost—“Let it be to me according to Your Word.”
- Joseph: wounded, confused—obeys immediately when God speaks.
- Adam hid; Mary believed; Joseph obeyed.
- Luke 1:45: “Blessed is the one who has believed...”
- Invitation: move from resisting God to trusting Him.

“At that moment the curtain in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” (Matt 27:51, NLT)

Hebrews 10:19-20 says, And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus—by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through the curtain of His flesh. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

GOD’S BLESSING DOESN’T REST ON OUR EFFORT. IT RESTS ON OUR SURRENDER.

- Independence and performance mirror Eden’s mistake.
- Blessing flows through surrender, trust, and obedience—Mary & Joseph’s posture.
- The Christian life is abiding, not achieving.

JESUS IS HEAVEN’S VICTORY ANNOUNCEMENT.

- Jesus—the child Mary carried and Joseph raised—is the promised Serpent-crusher.
- Cross tears the curtain → Eden reopened.

Colossians 2:12–15 (NLT, then CSB v.15):

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

- Application: Does His mercy speak louder than your mistakes—and will you step toward Mary-and-Joseph-level faith?

FINAL CALL

- God speaks; people respond—distrust (Adam & Eve) or trust (Mary & Joseph).
- Future announcement: “Behold, the Bridegroom has come.”
- Ephesians 2: dead → alive → brought near.
- One moment can shift you from hiding to surrender.
- Their “yes” changed everything—your “yes” can too.

- Salvation prayer + invitation to respond.