

Saying Yes

Luke 1: 26-38 (December 24, 2017)

Luke 1: 38

³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Historical Context

Tradition tells us that Mary was probably thirteen or fourteen years old when the angel appeared to her. In first-century Jewish culture, a girl who became pregnant out of wedlock faced grave danger. At the very least, she became an object of widespread scorn. At the worst — as in contemporary cultures which practice honor killings — she risked being stoned to death by the very villagers who raised her.

Theme: Saying Yes

God asked her to have a child. His child. She was unmarried. Promised to a man. How could she do this without disappointing everyone? Ev-er-y-one.

And there stood that angel of the Lord sent to a little girl, almost a woman, asking her to radically bend the arc of her life away from where she thought it might go to somewhere she never dreamed.

Let it be done with me according to your word.

I don't think she actually said *that*. My guess is that somehow she managed to squeak out an “ok...” But, whatever she said, she agreed to go through with it. She said “yes.”

Mary, in the annunciation, becomes the patroness of all youth and young people. She tells all of us that God can ask great things of the young, and the young can accomplish those things. Mary wasn't a “future” faithful young woman, she was at twelve or thirteen already a faithful woman.

Mary, in the annunciation, becomes the patroness, of all who are called by God to do impossible things. Of those who become embarrassments to their family and communities on behalf of God. She reminds us that the godly thing isn't always the prim-and-proper thing.

Mary, in the annunciation, becomes the patroness of all who dare say “yes” to God. Or, manage to mumble a tentative “...ok...”

In this scene where the divine comes crashing into the earth, Mary becomes our example, that in the ways of God we might become like her.

If we have the guts.