



Encouraging Your Faith Pt 2: For Nothing Will Be Impossible with God!

December 22, 2013, Christmas Service

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Friends, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, a Gospel review is in order so we celebrate the right things! It sure isn't about reindeer and a man in a red suit! ☺

Questions: Who is He? Why did He come? Why was He born?

Man's First Position: The blessings of the Garden

Gen 1:26-28 ESV Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Man's Plight: The Fall into Sin

Gen 3:6-7 ESV So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

1Co 15:21-22 ESV For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Man's Punishment Pt 1: A Hard life terminated by death

Gen 3:16-19 ESV To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Gen 3:24 ESV He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Man's Punishment Pt 2: Judgment Eternal Torment in Hell

Joh 5:28-29 ESV Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

2Co 5:10 ESV For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Rev 21:8 ESV But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

Man's Predicament: Unable to Measure up to God's Standards!

- Born in sin: *Psa 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
- Unable to keep the Standard: *Psa 19:7 ESV The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*
- Condemned by the Law: *Jas 2:10 ESV For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.*

Man's Prospect: A Messiah!

Isa 53:3-5 ESV He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Man's Propitiation: Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God!

Rom 3:23-26 ESV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (26) It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Man's Ultimate Purpose by the grace of God: Worship! Eternity in Heaven with our King!

Joh 14:1-6 ESV "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

So on Christmas, and indeed every day, we celebrate Jesus Christ, the Messiah, King of Kings, and Lord of Glory and Savior of the World! We celebrate His coming, His Work, His death, His burial, and His glorious resurrection and ascension! We celebrate God the Son being born of a virgin and dwelling among us, living perfectly and becoming a perfect sacrifice! We celebrate His grace in giving us His Spirit and His Gospel! We celebrate His coming return! Oh, how we love Jesus!

*To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
1Ti 1:17 ESV*

Luke 1 Thoughts: For Nothing Will be Impossible with God!

1. Do you really believe that? That with our God nothing is impossible? Well how about this for some encouraging proofs:
 - a. V26 - Sending an angel to announce the fulfillment of a 700 year old (approx) prophecy:
 - *Isa 7:14 ESV Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (See also Matt 1:22-23)*

- b. V27, 34-36 – How about overshadowing a virgin AND picking the type of husband who would believe despite the scandal?
- *Mat 1:18-20 ESV Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (19) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. (20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*
- c. V28-30 - How about the Lord's choosing and favoring a simple, likely poor girl from the other side of the tracks (Nazareth)?
- *Joh 1:46 ESV Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."*
- d. V31-33 - How about the documented coming of Jesus, who fulfilled dozens of messianic prophecies?
- *Luk 24:44 ESV Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*
 - *Act 3:18-21 ESV But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (19) Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, (21) whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.*
2. Friends, with our God, NOTHING is impossible! (v37)
- a. No physical limitation, no man-made system or set of rules/expectations, no time restrictions, no spiritual principalities. Nothing can stop our God!
 - b. *Mar 11:22 ESV And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God.*
 - c. *Pro 3:5-8 ESV Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (7) Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. (8) It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*
 - d. *Mat 9:28 ESV When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."*
 - e. Saints, let us believe in God! I believe the words of Gabriel, just like I believe the words of the angels to the Shepherds:

Luk 2:8-14 ESV And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

3. And friends, look at Mary's response to Gabriel in verse 38.
 - a. "Behold": literally, "look," as in "look at me in truth...I believe and I'm not lying in what I'm about to say."
 - b. "I am the servant of the Lord." It is His will she wanted!
 - c. "Let it be to me according to your word." Whatever it takes...scandal, pain, misunderstanding, etc. was all to follow. Yet, look at her belief in the word of the Lord!
4. **CRCC, this must be our declaration as well in 2014. In faith, we must believe the word of the Lord! We must believe in the Scriptures! We must believe in Christ our King and build upon the rock of His word! His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension should drive our faith and obedience! Lord, let it be to us according to your Word!**

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." [Luk 1:45 ESV](#)

Merry Christmas!!