Pastor John Conway Surprised by God

December 16, 2018 Luke 1:26-38

**This Advent Season, where are you looking to be surprised?**

John 1:9 *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

**Watching and Waiting**

**I. God can\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when we don’t expect it.**

Luke 1:26-28:  *In the sixth month [of Elizabeth’s pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”*

* Some things about angels
* Some things about engagement in Orthodox Judaism.
* Some things about David

**II. God works into a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_future.**

Luke 1:29-33: *But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.  30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.  31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.  32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

* Jesus (Yeshua) means “God is Generous” or “the Lord is Salvation”

**III. God calls us to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_our lives.**

Luke 1:34-37: *Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”  35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.  37For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

* Nothing is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with God.
* God calls us to share in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_life.
* Each of us can be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s work.

**IV. We can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to change our lives.**

Luke 1:38a: *Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”*

* We can say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to God.

**V. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_works even when we think we are alone.**

Luke 1:38b. *Then the angel departed from her.*

**Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!**

1. When have you waited for one thing and then been surprised when something totally different happened? Was the totally different thing “good” or “bad”? If it seemed “bad” at first, did it turn out to be good anyhow?
2. Have you ever just “sat back” to see what would happen? How did it feel? Did you sense God’s presence when you “let go and let God?”
3. How can you risk putting yourself within Christ’s light this season?
4. What difference does it make to know that God is with you in whatever difficulty you may be facing at the moment?
5. Try this on as a daily prayer during this season and see what happens:

**Oh God: Instead of experiencing my day as a series of random incidents, and accidents, let me experience this day as a series of divine appointments and encounters.**

If you’d like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email *krisbeckert@thevineva.org* to set up an appointment.