A Heart Prepared

Day Two - The Angelic Visit.

Mary's encounter with the Angel Gabriel is one filled with a full spectrum of human emotions. How could Mary have been prepared for such an encounter? Angels are purportedly intimidating beings. For a young girl encountering an Angel, fear would surely have been Mary's initial reaction. Luke's account of this meeting is found in Luke 1:26-38 (ESV). The angel reassures Mary that all is well, and that she has found favor in the eyes of the Lord. She will be given a remarkable responsibility to care for the Son of God under extraordinary circumstances, beginning with conceiving a child while being a virgin.

Consider: If you were in Mary's position, how would you react? Would you respond with the trust in the Lord that Mary had, or would you run away as fast as you could? Given Mary's circumstances, I find her faith, trust, and openness to accepting her call to serve the Lord extraordinary. Our faith lesson from this angelic encounter is to cultivate the same faith, open mind, and willingness to serve. Being open-minded about being called to serve is essential to our spiritual growth. As the angel Gabriel shared with Mary, the Lord is always with us. We know from Ephesians that we are saved by grace through the gift of faith. Often, we pray for more faith in times of difficulty. But the key is who we place our faith in. Placing our faith in our own abilities limits us. Yet when we place our faith in Jesus, we have an endless supply of the faith we need.

Being open to the opportunities the Lord presents is important. As we see in Mary, we can be called at any time to step in, roll up our sleeves, and serve others by sharing God's love. In doing so, we act in faith, trusting that the Lord is with us as He calls us to serve. When we remember that the Lord is at our side, we can rejoice and serve with joy.

Leaning on Jesus
Forest & Pamela Holmes