

## God With Us... In The Wilderness of Doubt and Fear

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

-Pastor Dan

*"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").* Matthew 1:23

### Since God Is With Us In The Wilderness of "Doubt and Fear"...

- **God's Interruptions Are Often Divine OPPORTUNITIES.**

<sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.* Luke 1:26-29

**Angel Gabriel.** Lit. messenger. Gabriel means, *strong man of God* (see Dan 8:16; 9:23). Only other angel mentioned in Bible by name is Michael.

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.* Isaiah 7:14

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, **you are there**; if I make my bed in the depths, **you are there.** <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, **your right hand will hold me fast.*** Psalm 139:7-10

- **God's Plan Is Often DIFFERENT Than My Own Plans.**

<sup>30</sup> *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."*

Luke 1:30-36

- **God Requires A Response... An "OBEDIENT" Response.**

**Mary:** *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.* Luke 1:38

**Joseph:** *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.* Matthew 1:24

**Abraham:** <sup>4</sup> *I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, <sup>5</sup> because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions."* Genesis 26:4-5

**Isaiah:** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

**Jesus:** *yet not my will, but yours be done."* <sup>43</sup> *An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.* Luke 22:42-43