

**Christmas Cards from God:  
For Nothing Will Be Impossible with God  
Luke 1:34-38**

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**Text Introduction:** The title of this series “Christmas Cards from God,” originates from the idea that each of the messages that we are considering this Christmas season come from angels. Since we understand that angels spoke on behalf of God, the messages that we consider are direct messages from God. Each message, of course, has a specific, historical message to the original recipient, but each message also has a more general message about Christ that certainly applies to us.

Two weeks ago we considered this idea: “Do not be afraid.” That is a message that the angel spoke to four individuals or groups—Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds. Then last week, we considered the message to Mary: “His kingdom will have no end.”

Today, we look at the continuation of that same conversation with Mary. Mary has asked a very legitimate question. The angel’s answer is one that we need for many situations of life.

**Text:** <sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, “How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied to her:

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.  
Therefore, the holy One to be born  
will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s slave,” said Mary. “May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel left her.

**Introduction:** George Mueller, a preacher of another generation did a lot of things in his ministry that spanned several decades in the 1800s. One of his most well-known accomplishments was the creation of orphanages. Mueller once said, “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins when man’s power ends.”

Mueller had a strict policy to never ask for money for the operation of his orphanages or other ministry endeavors. He believed there was a conflict in his asking for money from men while preaching that he was trusting in God. Instead, he prayed that God would move in the hearts of people to provide what was necessary.

One of the most inspiring stories of his faith comes from one early morning when the housemother sent word to Mueller that the 300 children were all dressed and ready for school, but there was nothing for

them for breakfast. Mueller instructed that all the children be brought into the dining hall. He prayed with all of the children that God would provide. Shortly thereafter, a local baker showed up with 300 biscuits. "I could not sleep last night," the baker said, "I sensed from the Lord that the children might need these this morning." Shortly thereafter, the milk man showed up. A wheel had fallen off his milk cart right in front of the orphanage. "The milk is going to spoil before I can get the cart repaired," he said. "Why don't you take it?" Mueller did, and the milk was just enough for the 300 children.

Impossible? "For nothing will be impossible with God!" It is a message that we need to plant firmly in our hearts this morning.

### **3 Factors Related to Believing God for the Impossible:**

#### **1. Confidence in God's Promises.**

My greatest fear in preaching this sermon this morning is that somebody is going to misunderstand this particular message and believe God for something that is impossible and it is impossible because God said it is impossible—that is not in accordance to His will. In other words, this verse should not lead us to say that "All things are possible," but rather all things that God promises are possible even when everyone else says that those things are impossible. There's a difference, you know!

In fact, the literal translation here could be: "No word" is impossible. The implication is that "No word" spoken by God is impossible. Nothing is impossible if God is in it.

Let me see if I can illustrate what I'm trying to say. I'm not going to come to you some Sunday and announce, "I'm resigning so that I can become the quarterback for the New Orleans Saints." You would say, "That's impossible!" What if I came back, "For nothing will be impossible for God! I believe that, and so I'm going to trust God!"

The idea is not "Name it and claim it," but instead believe God at His word.

For Mary, everyone would say it is impossible! But God had promised!

#### **The Progression of Faith:**

Verse 34: Question—Question, even doubt is ok, so long as the questions turn into faith. Her question must have been different from Zechariah's question. Zechariah's mouth was closed.

Verses 35-36: Confirmation from God's Word—God answered Mary's question with His provision. We need to become experts in distinguishing the voice of God from the voice of others. The good news is that we have His written word.

Verse 38: Faith—Faith and surrender were tied together for Mary. She left all of her questions at the feet of a Sovereign God.

Verse 45: Testimony—Soon, Mary had a testimony.

The Protection of Faith: Faith keeps us from getting in God's way. We need faith to keep us from getting in God's way of working the impossible out in our lives.

## 2. Confirmation by God's Past Activity.

One of the greatest tools that God can use in our lives to show us that with Him nothing is impossible is His past activity.

- The activity of God in history.—This is not the first time for these words.

To Abraham when Sarah laughed at their having a baby in their old age the Lord said, "Is anything impossible for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)

This was Jeremiah's prayer when faced with the impossible situation of buying land right before the Babylonian takeover. "Ah, Lord God! You, Yourself made the heavens and earth by your great power and with your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you." (Jeremiah 32:18)

And God answered Jeremiah's prayer: "Look, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27)

- The activity of God in another person's life. Believing God for what seems like the impossible is at the heart of the Christmas story. Christmas is a reminder of miracles. The angel points Mary to her relative Elizabeth for a story of what others would call the impossible.
- The activity of God in my life. Hopefully, we will have our own stories. I think Mary did. Look at her song, especially Luke 1:49.

Maybe your impossible situation is...

- A lost person—what about the Apostle Paul.
- Your own sin—The Bible says, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- Sickness—in miraculous ways, we have been eyewitnesses to God intervening time and time again.
- A family situation—Joseph was abandoned by his whole family, but God used him to restore his family.
- A financial situation—The Bible says, "God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Before you give up on God this time, look back at His past activity in your life.

## 3. Encouragement from other People.

I could have titled this message, "What do you do when the angel leaves?" We need people to encourage us that with God all things are possible. Mary went to see Elizabeth. God uses the stories of other people to encourage you.

- There is a Mary here today. Someone who needs a story.
- There is an Elizabeth here today. Someone who has a story.

What is your most impossible challenge this morning?

- 1) Do you have a promise from God about that particular matter? Actually, if you do not have a promise from God the issue is not as important as you might think.
- 2) Do you have the faith that with God, nothing is impossible?
- 3) Have you turned over your impossible situation to God?

We need to stop telling God what He cannot do. Stop telling God what He should do. In place, start reminding ourselves what God has already done, and start declaring that God can do whatever He wills to do.

Let me remind you something incredibly important today. Matthew said of Jesus in Matthew 13:58, "And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief."

Don't let unbelief be the reason that what seems like the impossible does not become possible.