



Luke 1:26-38

Filled With Wonder | December 7th - 13th, 2014

Warm-up: Wonder, when used as a noun, refers to a feeling. It is a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. Based on this definition, describe a time when you have experienced wonder. Do you feel this often?

- Read and meditate on **1 Timothy 6:15-16**. “*Light so brilliant that no human can approach him.*” Now read **Exodus 33:18-23**. Here Moses is permitted only to see only a glimpse of God’s splendor and majesty.
 - What strikes you about these two passages?
 - How are they related to the incarnation (of God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ)?

- Read **Luke 1:26-38** aloud. Identify the wondrous aspects of this story, and discuss the profound feelings that must have accompanied the various characters presented in this account.

- Angels, like Gabriel, are depicted in Scripture as wondrous beings. They are: a separate race of created being different than humans, Heaven’s warriors, continually singing praise at God’s throne, and are always telling people not to be afraid when they show up to deliver a message (Dan. 8:17)
 - In general, what have you typically believed about angels?
 - Do you believe you’ve ever had an encounter with an angel? (See **Hebrews 13:2**) Share.

- Mary didn’t need to be afraid (See Luke 1:28-30) because she was a recipient of God’s *grace*. Grace is always related to sweetness, liveliness, charm, joy or delight.
 - In what ways are you most prone to fear in your life?
 - How do you derive encouragement from this definition of grace?

- Review the following Scriptures that indicate how *GRACE* characterized the life of Christ and how it should characterize our lives as well: John 1:14; Luke 4:22; Ephesians 4:29; Acts 20:24 and Colossians 4:6. Where does God’s grace most need to break forth through your life right now? Explain.

Wrap-up: Close by praying about what your gift to Jesus can be this Christmas season. Is it your marriage? Your tongue? Your finances? Create some space to listen and after a time of silence, close with a word of prayer.