

December 13, 2015

MAKING CHRISTMAS REAL

Living in the Certainty of God's Plan

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas is far more than an event to be visited or a story to be told once a year. It is the celebration of God revealing Himself to all mankind in the coming of the Savior. For many people, this glorious event is simply a story with little meaning. The world needs to truly discover the great news of Christmas. Let's us make CHRISTmas real by living in the certainty of God's plan!

1. We cultivate a humble and God sensitive spirit.

"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'" Luke 1:26-28 (NIV)

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)

"Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name." Psalm 86:11

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Luke 8:15 (NIV)

2. We must listen and recognize God's voice.

"Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be." Luke 1:29 (NIV)

"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27 (NIV)

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13

3. We trust God to work beyond our own ideas and plans.

"'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon 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... For nothing is impossible with God.'" Luke 1:34-35, 37(NIV)

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for Me?" Jeremiah 32:27 (NIV)

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

4. We affirm a life of obedience!

"'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered." Luke 1:38 (NIV)

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who... made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant... He humbled Himself and became obedient ..." Philippians 2:5-8

5. We trust the Lord each day, even in the unknowns of life.

"'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her."

Luke 1:38 (NIV)

“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:20 (NLT)**

“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)