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The Chosen One

**Luke 1:26-38 - Thoughts on Becoming Someone That God Uses to
Change the World.**

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

Luke 1:29 (TLB)

"Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to wonderfully bless you!"

Luke 1:30 (TLB)

Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin."

Luke 1:34 (TLB)

"...For every promise from God shall surely come true."

Luke 1:37 (TLB)



Voices
Week Two
Danielle Strickland

Open Prayer: God, we invite you to wake us up to your Holy Spirit this holiday season. Help us to see you and hear from you today.

Talk It Over: The story of Mary is often presented as one of an amazing woman used by God who was pure, peaceful, and almost passive. This weekend we heard a different take on the story. — we saw Mary wrestle with what was being presented to her, and the emotional turmoil that opportunity brought.

- What did you think about this different take on the story? What did this different take on the Mary story stir up in you?

Read Luke 1:30 (TLB) and Ephesians 5:14 (NCV)

We can see in Luke that Mary's response to the angel was to become confused and disturbed. Confusion is an authentic response that we often experience when God comes to us with a message. This confusion can cause us to wrestle and seek to understand the new way of living God is calling us to. It can wake us up to a different path on this journey.

- Have you ever experienced what felt like a time God was trying to get your attention? What was your process and response to God in that season?
- A disruption in our life causes us to reflect on what little control we have. When that happens do you fight to keep your control or enter into the practice of surrender? If you have ever practiced surrender, share a little about how the gap between fighting for control and practicing surrender works for you.

Read Luke 1:30 (TLB) and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (The Voice)

If we want to be awoken spiritually, we have to be willing to be uncomfortable. William Booth said, "There is no changing the future without disturbing the present."

God is in the business of the impossible and when we are willing to be uncomfortable, he can use us to accomplish those things that feel impossible...For example, like baking cupcakes for a brothel. (*Make sure you listen to this weekend's message for this story.*)

- Can you name some practical ways you can practice being uncomfortable?
- How has the Holy Spirit interrupted you?
- In the uncomfortable times when God interrupted you, what has been the end result? Were you able to see God at work in that situation?

Read Luke 1:37 (TLB) and Ecclesiastes 4:12 (MSG)

Mary chose to press into her confusion and the feeling of being disturbed. The angel told Mary not to be afraid. Remembering we are not alone is critical to not fearing. God is with us and he has given us each other. Together, as a community, we can push through fear and stay awake to what God is doing in our world.

- Fear can be a natural human response to a difficult or new challenge, but it doesn't have to be a place we stay. Share some ways you push through fear and how you handle it when you feel it.
- Having just one other person with you through difficult times can drastically change the level of fear you experience. Can you name one person you regularly call on when you need support? Have you been that source of support for someone else?
- Take a moment to remember that living life alone is not God's design. Push yourself to reach out when you encounter something challenging or good this week. Take in that support.

Closing Prayer: God, remind us that you are in the business of the impossible. Help us to embrace being confused and being disturbed, but not being afraid because you are with us. Help us to feel your presence. Send us opportunities to push through fear and discomfort as we seek your plans for our lives and this world. May we say 'yes' to you.