

December 9 - Elizabeth Ladkani

Luke 1:33-38 KJV

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

In this scripture we see the iconic calling of Mary to bare the Christ Child. For centuries, we have tried to imagine and capture the emotions of this event. Through paintings and sculptures depicting what is referred to as The Annunciation, many of the world's finest artists have attempted to show us how Mary reacted to such news. News that she, a virgin Galilean-Jewish woman of Nazareth, would give birth to the Child of God. In the *Annunciation with Saints Margaret and Ansanus* by Simone Martini and Lippo Memmi, The Virgin shrinks back in reluctance. Her face looks upon the angel in horror. *The Annunciation* by Paolo de Matteis shows Mary looking down in shame, as if she was not worthy of this news. That she was not worthy to be in the presence of this Angel, and that she was not worthy to be anointed by God. *The Annunciation* by Frederick James Shields gives us a humble Mary, bowing down to the Angel and to God. She gives herself to The Lord, ready to serve Him and trust in Him. Why is it, that we each see Mary accepting this news in such different ways?

We may never know exactly what went through Mary's mind as she became anointed by The Lord to become the mother of the Messiah. A young woman, still possibly a girl to our culture, being told she would be with child. Not yet married, in a society persecuted by a corrupt government and corrupt religious leadership, I would imagine she felt terrified and alone. When we feel as if no one can understand us or relate to us, we tend to resort to isolation. Mary was not like most though, for she had trust in the Holy Spirit. It was her faith, we must believe, that kept her going through such difficult times. It was her love of God that gave her the strength and will to overcome her challenges.

When God calls upon us, it will not always be as extravagant or as noticeable as with Mary's Annunciation, but when a door is opened for us, we must always show faith and love to God. Through our faith and through His love, we can accomplish anything. We may not be called to give birth to Jesus Christ, but even with the small and seemingly insignificant opportunities, we must look to God for strength and guidance.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

- Elizabeth Ladkani