

Let's Get This Party Started! Luke 1:46-55

Introduction

- Making Room at the Movies
 - Yesterday afternoon, we went with another family to a movie
 - There were 8 of us total, and of course we wanted to sit close to each other
 - Imagine how difficult it is to find enough room for 8 seats in one row
 - Knowing this, our tickets were pre-ordered
 - Although we still had to get to the theater in plenty of time to get pop-corn, candy, and snacks, we didn't have to stand in line for tickets.
 - We walked through like royalty to our row of 8 reserved seats
- Throughout this Christmas season we have been challenged to "Make Room for Jesus".
 - Luke 2:7, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."
 - Not only was a baby wrapped in a manger, but:
 - Salvation
 - Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy
 - There was a lot going on in Bethlehem due to Caesar's decree, but the most important thing was taking place in a manger.
- Focus on Mary
 - Mary's pregnancy was profound, not just because she was carrying the Savior of the World, but this child was conceived through the Holy Spirit
 - Virgin Birth—this conception was not of man, but of God
 - When Mary found out she was pregnant she could have run away, or as she did, accept that God was about to do something great.
 - No matter what, this child was coming. Mary immediately had to find room in her life for this child.
- It doesn't matter what the focus of your Christmas season has been. It doesn't even matter what the focus of your life has been. The truth is that Christ has come, and is going to come again. You better make room for Jesus!
 - Just like we pre-ordered our tickets for the movie to insure there was room for us, we need to be sure that our ticket to heaven is secure.
 - Christmas provides us with the ticket, if we are willing to make room for Jesus
 - How did Mary make room?
 - Fear turned to joy
 - Let's Get This Party Started!

Humility

- Avery Unexpected
 - Jackson and Avery are 15 months apart
 - We often get asked if they are twins
 - Needless to say, Avery's birth was unexpected!
 - I can remember when Amy told me that she was pregnant

- I was running on the treadmill at our house
 - This is how well I can remember finding out Amy was pregnant...I was on mile 7
 - Why Amy chose to tell me this unexpected news while I was running on the treadmill at mile 7, I have no idea
 - When she told me, I stopped running for only a second. It was like slow motion
 - Have you ever seen those videos where a person running on a treadmill gets their feet caught up and the treadmill throws the person back into a wall?
 - That's exactly what almost happened to me!
 - Thankfully, as I was processing the news that Amy was telling me, I was also able to hit the emergency button on the treadmill to get it to stop immediately.
 - It didn't matter what we had planned for the future, we had to make room for baby number 2.
- How did Mary make room for Jesus?
 - We need to appreciate who Mary was, before we can appreciate what she did.
 - Luke 1:28
 - Luke 1:34
 - Luke 1:38
 - Luke 1:45
 - Mary went from a woman who was afraid to a woman that was ready to worship
 - Luke 1:46-56
 - Mary made room for Jesus by worshipping God. We will get to that in just a few minutes, but remember we need to appreciate *who* Mary was before we can appreciate *what* she did.
 - Mary was humble
 - Luke 1:48
 - Luke 1:50
 - Luke 1:52
 - Luke 1:54
 - Mary quickly realized that Jesus' birth was not her plan, but God's plan.
 - How will this be?
 - For nothing is impossible with God.
 - She was a servant of the Lord.
- How does humility make room for Jesus?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
 - Humility enables us to recognize our calling
 - Humility enables us to recognize our sin
 - Humility enables to see a blessing and not a burden
- What has God done for you?
 - Take a step back in humility, and recognize what God has done for you.
 - Then, like Mary you will be able to celebrate God's presence in your life!

Servant

- Making room for a new child can be fun until they start talking!
 - Cute stage, and then Not So Cute stage
 - “Do this; Get me that; I’ll do what ever I want!”
 - There’s a grace period that a parent has with their kid’s, and it’s usually short, because if you don’t set boundaries quick, a parent becomes a slave.
- Slavery or Servanthood in the Bible looked similar to what Slavery looked like in America
 - It was not fair
 - There was little respect
- Jesus transformed the meaning of servanthood
 - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers’ of men.”
 - Mary and Joseph
 - God has a greater purpose
 - It won’t make sense
 - But, don’t be afraid, just be obedient and watch what God will do
 - Simeon
 - **Luke 2:25-32**
 - Servant
 - Worship
 - Fulfillment of God’s Promise
 - Anna
 - **Luke 2:36-38**
 - Servant
 - Worship
 - Fulfillment of God’s Promise
- Each of these individuals made room for Jesus by becoming servants of God
 - They answered the call
 - They believed in the promise
 - They were obedient to God, despite the circumstances
 - God was faithful
- In the first week of this series we talked about the invitation that God extends to us
 - The invitation is one of salvation
 - The invitation is one of love, joy, peace, and hope
 - **Luke 1:45, “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”**
 - We must respond to God’s invitation as servants
 - This isn’t slave work
 - This invitation has a greater purpose than you and I can imagine
 - When we answer the invitation, our lives begin to serve a greater purpose.
 - When we answer the invitation as servants of God, then we can celebrate God’s presence in our lives!

Worship

- How many have you said, or at least thought, “I can’t wait for all of this Christmas stuff to be over!”?
 - There’s so much build up
 - There’s so much that goes into it
- I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve thought it or heard others throughout the year utter these words as a major event is about to take place in the church.
 - We get overwhelmed
 - We are afraid that everything might not work out perfectly
 - There’s tension
- Yet, there comes a point when you just have to let things go, and let them happen
 - I was asked this week, “Pastor, is your church ready for Christmas?”
 - My response, “Well whether we are ready or not, it’s coming!”
- If we approach God, or our ministries as humble servants, then we can see all that God has done.
 - Children’s Program
 - The year in review
 - Worship today
 - All the effort has been worth it!
- Mary’s Song of Worship
 - It comes after Elizabeth exclaimed, “**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.**” (Luke 1:45)
 - Notice Mary’s words (“He Has”) from **verse 49 to 54**
- When we approach God as humble servants, then we can see what God has done.
 - We have to get to a point in this season, and in our lives where we say, “O.K. God I’m letting go. Let it be to me as you will. I’m your servant.”
 - It’s at that point that we accept the invitation
 - It’s at that point that Jesus enters into our lives
 - It’s at that point that we can begin to see all that God has done, and wants to do in our lives.
 - It’s at that point that we can celebrate!
- Look how Mary responds after Jesus’ birth
 - The shepherds came to worship- **Luke 2:19, “But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”**
 - Simeon worshiped Jesus- **Luke 2:33, “And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.”**
 - Jesus hanging out in the temple- **Luke 2:51b, “And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.”**
- When we approach God as humble servants, then we can see what God has done!

Conclusion

- Christmas is coming whether you are ready or not. More importantly Jesus is coming whether you are ready or not.
 - Have you accepted his invitation?
 - Mary accepted the invitation as a humble servant

- You and I must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord, repent of our sins, and choose to live in obedience to God.
- While we call that initial invitation “salvation”, the truth is accepting that invitation is a daily necessity
 - Busy and Stress and Uncertainty, we need to acknowledge who is in control, commit our weaknesses to God, and choose to follow where God is leading
 - When we answer that invitation then we can begin to experience: Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace— —Salvation
- And like Mary, we can celebrate!
- Let’s Get This Party Started!