

The Birth of Jesus Announced

Scripture: **Luke 1:26–38**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, April 9, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

We tend to gravitate toward saviors—people in our lives who help us or perhaps even rescue us. While these heroes may be good, they are never enough to provide what we truly need.

Jesus is better than every other so-called savior—He is highly exalted, the Son of God, the one true King and holy.

Corroborating Texts

John 4:7-14, John 8:48-55, Matthew 12:6, Hebrews 1:4, Matthew 3:15-17, Matthew 17:1-8, Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:15-20

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have someone in your life you consider to be your “hero?” How has that person helped you? Has that person disappointed you?
2. Mary is told by the angel Gabriel that she has found favor with God.
 - a. How would you define the favor of God?
 - b. How have you heard others refer to the favor of God?
 - c. What did the favor of God mean for Mary, and is that different than how you've viewed God's favor?

Wealth, success and power is what we often think of as God's favor; however, God's favor often doesn't look like we expect it to. God's favor is his grace for undeserving sinners to reconcile us to Himself. In that sense, all believers have found favor with God.

3. Unlike our heroes or “small s” saviors, Jesus is highly exalted. Pastor Joe cited examples from Scripture illustrating Jesus being greater, including: Jesus is greater than Jacob (John 4:7-14); Jesus is greater than Abraham (John 8:48-55); Jesus is greater than the temple (Matthew 12:6); Jesus is greater than angels (Hebrews 1:4). These claims meant a great deal to whom they were proclaimed.
 - a. What statement do you need to preach to yourself? e.g., “Jesus is greater than _____.” (This could be a person in your life or any thing you tend to highly exalt.)
 - b. What statement do you think the non-believing world around us needs to hear? [consider what our culture—your neighbors, colleagues, etc.—tends to highly exalt.]
4. Pastor Joe cited four things that make Jesus better. In addition to Jesus being highly exalted—and thus better than every other so-called savior—He is also the Son of God, the one true King, and holy. How are each of these truths meaningful as they relate to our gravitation toward “little” saviors?
5. Read Colossians 1:15-20. What do we learn about Jesus? What are our deepest needs, and how does Jesus meet them?