

December 14

Luke 1:26-38

“May your word to me be fulfilled.” I can almost promise you that would not be my first response to Gabriel’s news. If I’m honest, it’s not my initial response to most things God asks of me. What extraordinary words from an ordinary girl from small town Nazareth. Mary must have had her own dreams of a husband, house, and children. And then, Gabriel appears with an invitation from God, an invitation that will change everything.

If Mary said yes, her future marriage and other dreams would be in jeopardy. Her standing in the community would be ruined, actually not only hers, but her family’s as well. Mary did not argue or question or suggest an alternate plan (which would most likely be my initial response) or even demand to know all the details. Her response was simple but profound, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word be fulfilled.” She listened to Gabriel, considered the request, and trusting God and His plan, responded simply, “Yes.” Her response was not only life-changing for her but world-changing. She gave birth to not just any baby but God’s own Son, Jesus, the Savior of the World. God’s plan for her was way bigger than her own dreams and plans.

Sometimes what God asks of us seems too hard, too messy, too uncomfortable, too risky, too scary, and definitely too inconvenient. (After all, we have our own plans.) If we say yes, we may be judged, criticized, or misunderstood. We may have to give up our own plans, step out of our comfortableness, and be inconvenienced. We may see and suggest to God what we think are much better plans or want all the details upfront before agreeing to the plan.

The truth is that God is going to accomplish His purpose, His plan, with or without me. But He invites me, an ordinary person, into His plans. I can say no and continue with my own plans. (If I say no, what do I miss out on?) If I say yes, although it might be hard, messy, uncomfortable, risky, scary, and inconvenient, I get to be part of something way bigger than I can imagine. When we say yes, God does extraordinary things through ordinary people like us.

What is God asking you to say yes to today?

God, thank you for using an ordinary girl named Mary to change the world. Today, I, like Mary, claim your promise that no word from You will ever fail. Help me to say yes to what you are asking me. In the name of Mary’s baby, Your Son, the Savior of the world, I pray. Amen.

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