

## Service at Nettleham 7/12/08

### Theme: Mary Housegroup notes

#### •Background

Every time Gabriel appears it's an important message from God that he is delivering. He appeared to Daniel 500 years before, Zechariah and now Mary. **Look up Daniel 9:20-ff, Luke 1**

#### **How do these chosen people respond to the visit?**

Mary was a devout Jewish girl in her mid-teens who was engaged to Joseph. She was a child of elderly parents Joachim and Anna. She was the only person who was with Jesus from his birth till death.

#### **How do you think Mary would of felt considering her age about this visit? Do you think she understood everything that was happening?**

#### •Preparation

The divine choice of Mary implies her utter devotion and dedication, even the angel delivers his message with reverence and humility. **Read Luke 1:28 Do you agree?**

We make preparations for all types of events, weddings, Birthdays, Christmas etc... We organise our time, make arrangements for family to visit, buy all the things we need and generally we are prepared for the event.

#### **Am I this prepared within my Christian walk?**

#### **Do I put this much effort into my relationship with God?**

#### **Do I read the bible often enough?**

#### **Do I make Jesus number 1 in my life?**

#### •Willingness

God's announcements of a child within the bible met with different responses. Sarah laughed, Zechariah doubted and Mary submitted. **Look up Gen 17:15-18:14, Luke 1 reflecting on these passages consider the following question and discuss.**

#### **How will we respond to God's call will we laugh at him and think its impossible, will we doubt or will we willingly accept and submit?**

Gods favour does not automatically bring instant success. The honour of Mary of being the mother of the Messiah also brought pain; she was ridiculed, nearly rejected

by Joseph and saw her son rejected and murdered. **Discuss in your group how God has given you something to do that has also meant a sacrifice or pain to yourself.**

- Acceptance

Mary accepts that what God has said will happen, is already happening.

Within the Magnificat Mary comments about her situation. Should we take this as pride or as something else. Mary was thankful that God had given her this gift. We are not to deny, belittle or ignore gifts that God has given us.

**Do you think that Mary is speaking from a position of pride?**

**Do you think that sometimes we can be over humble?**

**Do you think we should openly use our gifts and make others aware of what they are to glorify God?**

The following statement was the closing statement to my sermon. **Discuss**

**Are we spiritually prepared for God to use us, do we have a willingness to do what we are told regardless of how ridiculous it might sound, and do we have the faith to accept that what God says will happen will actually happen, therefore are we prepared to put our part into practice without prove that God has done his.**