

We Wish You a Merry Rescue:

The Advent of Christ and the Rescue of Sinners (Part 3)

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Key Text

Luke 1:38

→ “And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”



Big Idea

Christmas is the Creator condescending towards His creatures with the goal of forging an ever-tightening and eternal bond with them.

*“The crucial significance of the cradle at Bethlehem lies in its place in the sequence of steps down that led the Son of God to the cross of Calvary, and we do not understand it till we see it in this context. The key text for interpreting the Incarnation is not, therefore, the bare statement in John 1:14, ‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,’ but rather the more comprehensive statement of 2 Corinthians 8:9, ‘You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.’ Here is stated not the fact of the Incarnation only, but also its meaning; the taking of manhood by the Son is set before us in a way which shows us how we should ever view it—not simply as a marvel of nature, but rather as a wonder of grace” (Packer, *Knowing God*, 58-59).*

(1) From John to Jesus

While the move from John to Jesus is, in one sense, from lesser to greater, we cannot miss that it is also, in another sense, a move from greater to lesser. The Son of the Most High is condescending to the most low. The contextual elements of the 2 stories bear this observation out. One commentator sums it up this way: “The previous announcement about John came to a priest in the midst of a public worship service at the high holy place of Israel’s capital. The announcement about Jesus comes privately to a humble woman in a rural village.”

(2) From the Temple to the Creature

In Exo 40:34-35 the glory-cloud presence of God overshadowed and filled the tabernacle to such a degree that Moses wasn’t even able to enter it. But in our text, the glory-cloud presence of God is moving down from the temple and is now overshadowing a little peasant girl. What Moses couldn’t enter, is now entering Mary! God is getting as close as He can to humanity.

(3) From Master to Servant

God’s condescension calls for a condescension of our own. He has lowered Himself to help, but we must now lower ourselves to receive it.



Critical Action

Meet God’s condescension to you with condescension of your own as you humbly trust Him.

Reflection Questions

- Describe the incarnation. Consider Scripture that speaks of it. In what ways does the incarnation seem reasonable? In what ways will it always remain a mystery to you?
- Have you ever been troubled by grace? Would you say you’ve been taking grace for granted lately? How do you cultivate a sense of troubled amazement at God’s grace?
- Are you a master or servant of God? Do you often tell Him what to do or are you ready to listen and receive? What does it mean for you to say: “Let it be to me according to Your word”? Why is that often so hard?

