



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn 2019

Series – The Gospel of Luke

Gathering & Date – the 10, 20 October

Title – Luke 1 & 2 (Mary)

Preacher – Paul Langham

Reading – Luke 1:26-38 & 2:1-21

Those who should *don't*, and those who shouldn't ... *do*

Time and again, religious leaders – men who should have welcomed him with open arms – simply couldn't comprehend that the rabbi from Nazareth was their Messiah (and many still cannot). On the other hand, simple, run of the mill people responded to his invitation with joy. Which are you?

Mary ...

... was the perfect mother for Jesus ... her final response is proof of that: 'Look,' she says of herself, 'the slave of the master ...' She is surrendering her rights, hopes, dreams ... even her own body ... she seems to know instinctively that she is owned by Another ...

- How do you experience belonging to the Lord?
- What have you surrendered to him?
- What have you not?

To become obedient to the call of God always means becoming a slave to the impossible ... how does this feel to you?

The Shepherds ...

... were outcasts, barred from giving testimony in court. So were the women who were the first witnesses of the Resurrection. What does it tell you about God that he arranges such insignificant, overlooked members of society to be the first witnesses of the 2 Great Miracles (the birth and the resurrection of his Son) in the gospel?

Simeon ...

... as he embraces the infant he knows to be the light and life of the world, is able to embrace his own death. We are now embraced by that 'infant' who is the Lord of light and life. What difference does this make to our attitude towards death?

hesed ...

... is an almost untranslatable word (which God uses over and over again to describe himself in the OT). It means something like this: 'When the person from whom I have no right to expect anything gives me everything'. In the NT it's normally translated 'mercy' or 'grace'.

Mary & Zechariah experienced *hesed* and it led to an outpouring of praise for and witness to God's goodness. How do you respond to the experience of *hesed*?