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TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Finding Your Purpose

Jim Keena | Guest Speaker | January 7, 2024

How to find & fulfill your life's purpose?

"God's redemptive promise was brought to Mary to grow in her, to be delivered through her, to change the world around her." – Jack Hayford

God's Promise:

Luke 1:26b-29 (NIV)

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

Annunciation
by Henry Owassa Tanner



Luke 1:30-33 (NIV)

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Mary's Response:

Luke 1:34-35, 37 (NIV)

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.... ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

Luke 1:38 (NIV)

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Jack Hayford said, "God often works in people through prepositions. In Mary's Life, 'God's redemptive promise was brought to Mary to grow in her, to be delivered through her, to change the world around her.'"

Discuss Mary's story in light of the prepositions "to, in, through, and around."

- 2) Discuss Henry Oswassa Tanner's painting and the quote by Terry Glasper. What captured your attention?
- 3) Have you had a "Mary Moment" in your life? A time when you sensed God calling you to obey.
- 4) Can you summarize in a few sentences what your purpose in life is?



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