

## Sermon Text Discussion 12/11/2016

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Luke 1:26 - 56: "Celebrating Advent with Open Wonder" by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus not only provides historical detail of specific events, but also captures conversations that occurred. Through his recount of a familiar story, he provides much needed focus for each of us during a time filled with distractions. The conversations show the meaning of the events. They tell the significance of what is happening. In this portion of Luke's gospel, we will see three things about the significance of Jesus' arrival:

1. Who he is
2. Why he came
3. How to respond to his incarnation

### Quotations

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"God did not derive his divinity from Mary; but it does not follow that it is therefore wrong to say that God was born of Mary. She is the true mother of God. Mary [nursed] God, rocked God to sleep, prepared broth and soup for God, etc." - Martin Luther

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) You have probably read this familiar section of Luke's gospel several times. As you listened to our study, what new details did you learn? How does this knowledge shed new light on the text?
- 2) Read of Mary's surprise visit from the mighty angel, Gabriel (Luke 1:26 – 36). How does he describe the baby Mary will birth? Do you think any of these descriptions surprised Mary? Why or why not? What Old Testament references support your answers?
- 3) How does Elizabeth and her pregnancy provide further confirmation of 'who Jesus is'?
- 4) Mary's understanding of the significance of Jesus' birth is obvious through her song (versus 46 – 56). In it, she points to several things God will do through Jesus to those who fear him and those who don't. List them. What examples come to mind of each in Jesus' earthly ministry? Which are the biggest challenges to you?
- 5) Read Luke 1:34. How can this be interpreted as a sign of Mary's faith and not of a lack of faith?
- 6) Describe the difference between 'faith seeking understanding' and 'faith once I have proof'. Which do you typically demonstrate? In what area of your life today are you struggling to have faith without enough proof?
- 7) How is your holiday focus? How distracted are you by many of the 'good things' Drew listed? As a small group, discuss tangible ways to be filled with wonder during this advent season.