

FAVORED FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

MARY WASN'T CAPABLE. SHE WAS AVAILABLE.

Luke 1:26–38

THE BIG IDEA

God's calling will often exceed your capacity because His purpose was never supposed to be accomplished by your strength alone.

Mary wasn't chosen because she could do it.
What God asked was literally impossible for her.
If God didn't move, it wasn't happening.
And yet, He called her favored.

A TRUTH TO REMEMBER

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

Our Responsibility:

Obedience.

God's Responsibility:

The outcome.

1 MARY WAS FAVORED BEFORE SHE WAS CAPABLE

Luke 1:28

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

• **Favor is not the same as ability.**

- Mary was incapable — there was nothing she could do to make this happen.
- God chose her knowing it could only be done by Him.

DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been handed a responsibility and thought, "I don't know if I can do this"? What was it?
- When you feel in over your head, what do you normally do first?
- Have you ever almost said no because you didn't feel qualified?
- What does this tell us about being called vs. being capable?
- Could feeling inadequate cause us to walk away from something God wants us to depend on Him for?

2 IT OFTEN IS MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE

1 Corinthians 10:13

"He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability..."

• **This verse is about temptation**, not every trial or calling.

- God will absolutely allow you to face more than you can handle.
- Sometimes the purpose is to bring you to the end of your strength so you will rely on Him.
- **2 Corinthians 1:8–9** — *"We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength... to make us rely not on ourselves but on God."*

DISCUSSION

- Can you think of a season when life felt like more than you could handle?
- How does 2 Corinthians 1:8–9 challenge "God won't give you more than you can handle"?
- Why is it hard to admit, "I cannot handle this by myself"?
- What might relying on God look like in a situation you're facing?

3 HER QUESTION EXPOSES THE IMPOSSIBILITY

Luke 1:34

"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

- Mary's question is practical, not unbelief.
- Faith doesn't require us to pretend the impossible isn't impossible.
- There are times when faith means trusting God when we don't understand.

DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been told something and thought, "Okay, but how is that even possible?"
- What's the difference between questioning God because we don't believe Him vs. asking because we don't understand?
- Have you ever known what God wanted you to do but had no idea how it could happen?
- Why do Christians feel pressure to pretend they don't struggle or have questions?

4 GOD'S ANSWER TO HER INABILITY WAS HIS POWER

Luke 1:35

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you..."

- God doesn't give Mary a plan to become capable.
- His answer is not her strength, but His power.
- You don't need the power in yourself to accomplish everything God has called you to do. You need the God who does.

DISCUSSION

- When faced with something difficult, what is your natural response (work harder, control it, ask for help, pray, panic, etc.)?
- Why is dependence on God sometimes harder than trying harder ourselves?
- Where might God be asking you to stop saying, "How am I going to make this happen?" and start asking, "God, what are You asking me to trust You with?"

5 GOD GIVES MARY EVIDENCE OF HIS POWER

Luke 1:36–37

"Your relative Elizabeth... has also conceived a son..."

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

- Elizabeth had been called barren, but God was already at work.
- God often shows us what He's doing in someone else's story to strengthen our faith.
- What God has promised, God has the power to accomplish.

DISCUSSION

- Why do you think Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth?
- Has someone else's testimony ever strengthened your faith?
- What's the difference between believing "God can do anything I want" and "God is able to accomplish what He has purposed"?
- Why is that distinction important?

6 MARY'S RESPONSIBILITY WAS YES. GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY WAS THE MIRACLE.

Luke 1:38

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

- Mary didn't have a plan. She simply made herself available.
- God didn't ask her to perform the miracle — He asked her to surrender to it.
- Your responsibility is obedience. God's responsibility is the outcome.

DISCUSSION

- Is there something you've been trying to make happen that you need to surrender to God?
- What's the difference between obedience and trying to control the outcome?
- What would a "yes" to God look like in your current situation?
- Is there an area where you know what obedience looks like, but you've been waiting until you understand how it will all work out?

**WHAT GOD CALLS YOU INTO MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU,
BUT IT IS NEVER IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOD WHO CALLED YOU.**

AVAILABLE. DEPENDENT. OBEDIENT.

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