

Today's Message: "No Filter Christmas: Part 2"

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38, ESV)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28, ESV)

What God initiates, He permeates.

What you initiate, you have to sustain.

'Harder WITH God' is always better than 'easier WITHOUT God.'

"No Filter Christmas"

Pastor Kent Chevalier

December 16 & 17, 2017

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

In our culture, which groups of people are sometimes treated as less than human?

Read Luke 1:26-29

- In light of the Ancient Near Eastern culture, why do you think Mary was “greatly troubled” by the angel’s words?

Read Luke 1:30-38

- What words would you use to describe Mary’s final reaction?
- Which part(s) of the angel’s message would have been difficult to accept?
- Which part(s) would have bolstered Mary’s trust in God?

Read Galatians 3:25-29

- In what ways have you or a loved one been made to feel “less than”?
- How does the gospel of Jesus speak into issues of prejudice and inequality?

What is your reaction to this principle? “What God initiates, He permeates. What you initiate, you must sustain.”

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