

GOD AND ORDINARY PEOPLE, LIKE US

“Mary... An Ordinary Girl
Favored/Chosen To
Carry God’s Gift!”



Peter Thomas, Pastor | December 22, 2019

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!” ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” ³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail.” ³⁸ Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her. Luke 1:26–38 (NLT)

- **Finding/experiencing** God’s favor is not based on how good we are, but rather on **how willing we are!**

- God’s favor often introduces the **START** of a process ...while letting all the **details and outcomes** unfold!

- God’s favor can leave us **somewhat perplexed** and asking, “BUT GOD...?”

- God’s favor places us at the **center of the crossroad**, where we must CHOOSE to **believe or doubt!**

⁴⁵ *You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”*
Luke 1:45 (NLT)

- No one can **STOP, change, speed-up, or redirect** God’s favor and plan placed on you!

⁸ *That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.* ⁹ *Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified,* ¹⁰ *but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.* ¹¹ *The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!* ¹² *And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”* Luke 2:8–12 (NLT)

How Can We Walk In God’s Favor in 2020?

¹⁵ *When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”* ¹⁶ *They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.* ¹⁷ *After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.* ¹⁸ *All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished,* ¹⁹ *but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.* Luke 2:15–18 (NLT)

✓ CHOOSE to **hold on, trust** and **believe** God will meet you and favor you in and around **every corner** ...ALL **our unknowns!**

✓ Commit to living a **close and surrendered** life to Jesus ...He **knows you, has you covered** and **already favors you!**

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