

Message Notes

I love you, I love you, I LOVE YOU!

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “I love you, I love you, I
LOOOVVEE YOOUUUUU!!!”

Today’s Message:

“Experiencing this season of Christmas
by focusing on Jesus Christ”

Luke 1:26-38

The forerunner of John the Baptist

The sign shared to the shepherds

*“But Mary treasured up all these things and
pondered them in her heart”*

What/How did Mary treasure and ponder?

#1 - Being startled by an angel

Luke 1:26-27

Isaiah 7:14

#2 - Gabriel’s greeting

Luke 1:28-29

#3 - The news/theology of his message

Luke 1:30-33

2 Samuel 7:11b-13, 16

Psalms 89:3-4

Isaiah 9:6-7

#4 - How? With Childlike Faith

Luke 1:34

Luke 1:18

#5 - The miracle of a virgin birth

Luke 1:35-37

#6 - How? Trusting God’s sweet goodness

Luke 1:38

Luke 1:46-49

Gospel Application – Will you treasure and
ponder Jesus this Christmas?

Luke 2:19

¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” ³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God.” ³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

2 Samuel 7:11b-13, 16 / Psalm 89:3-4

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 1:46-49

⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer

Christmas
Sermon
Series



I love you.
I love you.
I LOVE YOUUUUUU!



Luke 1:11-20

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:11-20

¹⁷nd he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

Luke 2:8-20

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Luke 2:8-20

14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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What did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?

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#1 - *Being startled by an angel*

Luke 1:26-27

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.



Leonardo da Vinci - *The Annunciation* (1472-1475) Oil and Tempera on wood, 78 x 219 cm Florence Uffizi



ANDREA DEL SARTO

The Annunciation

1512-13

Oil on wood, 183 x 184 cm

Galleria Palatina (Palazzo Pitti), Florence



CLEVE, Joos van

The Annunciation

c. 1525

Oil on panel, 86 x 80 cm

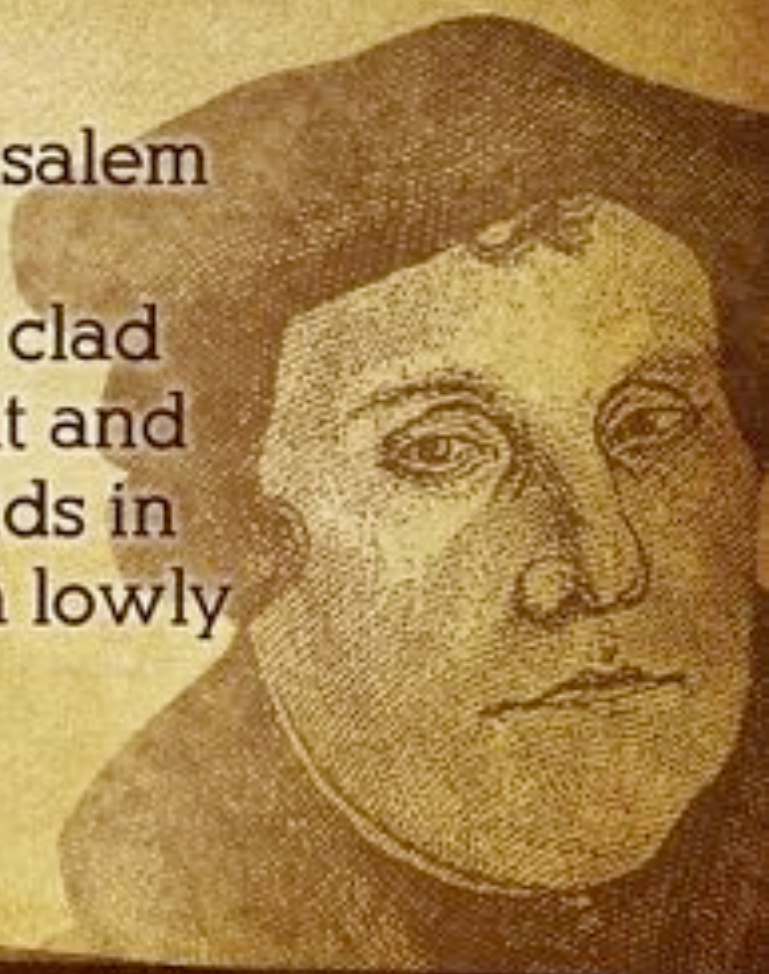
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



ANDREA DEL SARTO – Annunciation c. 1528, Oil on wood, 96 x 189 cm, Galleria Palatina (Palazzo Pitti), Florence

"He might have gone to Jerusalem and picked out Caiaphas's daughter, who was fair, rich, clad in gold embroidered raiment and attended by a retinue of maids in waiting. But God preferred a lowly maid from a mean town."

MARTIN LUTHER





Rossetti, Dante Gabriel *Ecce Ancilla Domini!* (*The Annunciation*) 1849-50, Oil on canvas, 28 1/8 x 16 1/2 in, Tate Gallery, London

A Jewish girl would normally be pledged to be married at about twelve years old, and married about one year after that. Mary would therefore be in her early teens at this time, in striking contrast with the age of her relative Elizabeth, “well advanced in years” (1:7). Nazareth was a small, obscure hill village (cf. John 1:46) in the northern province of Galilee, far from the capital city of Jerusalem in Judea. In contrast with Gabriel’s visit to Zechariah in the Jerusalem temple, therefore, he is now visiting a person of no social significance, even though her fiancé was of Davidic descent.



~ R. T. France, *Luke*, ed. Mark L. Strauss and John H. Walton, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013), 14.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.



According to contemporary Roman law, the minimum age of marriage for girls was 12 (for boys, 14), with the minimum age for betrothal set by Augustus at 10 (Rawson, "Roman Family," 21). Jewish practices were comparable, so that marriage for a female usually took place before she reached 12½ years of age. This was advantageous for

her husband, who thus received the benefits of her service over a longer period of time, but also for the girl's father. Practically speaking, he was able more easily to guarantee his daughter's purity (i.e., virginity) if he could arrange for her to be married by the time she reached puberty.



A marriage was constituted by the drawing up of a deed, the exchange of money to the groom (i.e., the “bride price”), and sexual intercourse. Earlier practices apparently made no distinction between betrothal and marriage, but before the first century B.C.E. a time lapse of some twelve months had become common. Consequently, a deed of betrothal

and the bride-price were exchanged at betrothal, after which bride and groom were legally joined and could be separated only by death or divorce. During this betrothal period, the daughter remained in her father’s house and under his control.



The marriage itself was marked by intercourse between the betrothed couple. See Archer, *Her Price Is beyond Rubies*, 151–71; Loewe, *Women in Judaism*, 22–23. “Betrothal” is thus quite distinct from “engagement” in the modern sense of the word.

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 70.

What did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?

#2 – *Gabriel’s greeting*

Luke 1:28-30

²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

How does Luke know this?

Luke 1:3-4

³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

What did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?

#3 – *The news/theology of what Gabriel told her*

Luke 1:30-33

³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:30-33

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2 Samuel 7:11b-13, 16

^{11b}“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Psalm 89:3-4

³You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, ⁴‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’ ”

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

How did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?

#4 – *With Childlike faith*

Luke 1:34

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”

Mary's Question

Luke 1:34

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”

Literally: “since I know no man”

Mary's Question

How is this different from Zechariah's Question?

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Luke 1:34

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Luke 1:18

“How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

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What did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?

#5 – *The miracle of a virgin birth*

Luke 1:35

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God.”

How did Mary “Treasure and Ponder”?
#6 – *Trusting in the sweet goodness of God*

Luke 1:38

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Mary's incredible response

Luke 1:46-49

⁴⁶And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
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Mary's incredible response

Think about this for a second

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Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

As we study the Annunciation, we must accept the essential spiritual fact of the Incarnation and the gospel: the Lord comes to *needy* people — those who realize that without him they cannot make it — those who acknowledge their weakness and spiritual lack. The Incarnation, salvation, resurrection, *Christmas* are not for the proud and self-sufficient. As we follow the course of the Annunciation, we will catch the pulse of the virgin's heart because *Mary is a model for those who experience the birth of the Savior in their lives.*

~ R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth*, Preaching the Word
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), 30.



“ Long before scrapbooks and Facebook and Pinterest telling us how to immortalize our memories, there was Mary. The woman-child chosen by God to give birth to his son. She was visited by angels, heard choirs that were worthy of singing before the throne of the

Almighty, had shepherds show up to offer gifts and fall down in worship at the tiny infant she carried inside her body for nine months. She had no snapshots on paper or paintings to hang on her wall...



[What she did have was] all the craziness that filled that stable that night, not the least of which was holding the son of God that she had just given birth to! This tiny, smiling, wiggling, bundle of perfection that she was now responsible for must have flooded her heart with so much at once.

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19

~ Jenn Buell, blogger and speaker - <http://www.jennbuell.com/2015/12/22/and-mary-pondered/>



Christmas Application:

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Will you treasure and ponder Jesus this Christmas?