



The Greatest Love Story - December 2022

Luke 1:26-38

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.

Have you ever seen a Hallmark Christmas movie? These holiday romance movies start in October and go through January. The reality is, if you've seen one, you've seen them all. They have an identical plot: there is always an unexpected love story, a seemingly

impossible barrier that arises between the couple, there is a miraculous solution to the problem, and a happily ever after.

In some ways, this mirrors the greatest love story ever told-- the original Christmas story. God created humanity to dwell with him and to enjoy him forever. Sin created an impassable barrier between us and God, and it seemed as though humanity was lost forever. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, creating a miraculous solution to a hopeless situation. Now, if we respond in faith, we have hope of happily everlasting in heaven.

1. How is the Christmas story a story of love?
2. Why was Jesus born of a virgin?
3. What does the word "incarnation" mean? Why was this essential for our salvation?

