



Two pre-Christmas stories

- The hopeless old man
– Part 1: Luke 1:5-25



- The helpless young woman
– Part 1: Luke 1:26-38



- Different people, similar stories

Zechariah's story

- Facts
- Feelings
- Promise – how
- Promise – what
- Reaction
- Consequences



Mary's story

- Facts
- Feelings
- Promise – how
- Promise – what
- Reaction
- Consequences



***The Offer,* by Mark Greene**

*It was an offer she could have refused,
A life she could have used
In some other way:
To grow great with child, for example,
after her wedding day...*

*She, turning from the safety of
merely human possibility,
Marvelling at how it could be
That He should choose her to bless,
Welcomed truth to her womb, and said "Yes".*

Parallels

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zechariah**, ... he had a wife ... and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God ... ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest ... ⁹ ... it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ ... ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

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, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!"

Parallels

¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid Zechariah, for your prayer is heard,

and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,

and you shall call his name John."

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,

and you shall call his name Jesus."

Parallels

¹⁴ "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

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 for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Parallels

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news."

²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

³⁵ And the angel said to 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 kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren."

³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

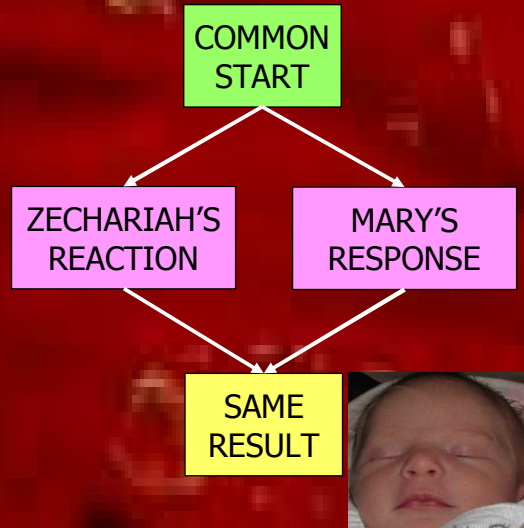
Parallels

²¹ ... ²² And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb.

²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived ...

³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Two stories, Part 2



How about you?

- Christmas is coming
 - God born into the world as a baby
 - Incarnation, identification – **FOR YOU**
- How will you react/respond?
 - I'm too old/too young
 - I don't understand how
- Respond like Mary:
 - **YES:** *"Let it be as you say"*