

The Twelve Wills of Christmas Luke 1: 26-38

It is amazing to consider that the Christmas story, the one we Christians hold in such high esteem and base our whole faith around, began with two ordinary people and two extra ordinary decisions. When Mary and Joseph said yes to God, it must have been the most difficult decisions they would ever make in their lives. Here was a young girl, engaged to be married, anticipating her wedding day and a new life with her husband to be, moving into a new house, and starting a family of their own. A holy messenger arrives and basically asks her if it would be alright if God changed that traditional sequence of events. She would conceive in a miraculous way and give birth to a child before her wedding day- in an age and culture where her husband to be would not be likely to believe her story and an unwed mother would likely be stoned to death. The amazing thing is that Mary said yes. Such a thing would be impossible to believe if God was not squarely in the midst of it. If you or I were writing the story we would probably have written it much differently so as to avoid all of the whispered questions and eyebrows that are raised, even today some 2000 years later.

Joseph also found it hard to believe until the angel told him to put his fear aside and trust God. Even today, the story of the virgin birth of Jesus is hard for some to believe. It is a holy mystery why some respond to Gods love and grace why others seem oblivious to it. But the truth is that God uses people- even sinful people like you and I- to accomplish His divine will. Sometimes God will use circumstances, people, or unusual events to allow our will to meet His will in a most amazing way. For Mary and Joseph, it was an angel of the Lord. He told them of twelve specific things that would be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.

You **will** conceive in your womb and bear a son – Jesus was born completely human just as you and I were.

You **will** name Him Jesus – in Hebrew the name is Yeshua and it means the “Lord of Salvation” – salvation comes from no other god.

He **will** be great- there can be no doubt that Jesus is the greatest person known in human history

He **will** be called the Son of the Most High- or as some translations render it the Son of the Most High God-in effect the angel was saying that Jesus would be equal to Almighty God.

The Lord God **will** give to him the throne of His ancestor David and He **will** reign over the house of Jacob forever. That reminder is there because we Gentiles sometimes forget the millennial kingdom we yearn for during the Advent season and beyond will be a Jewish kingdom. The events that take place in the Middle East take on a whole new meaning when we consider that truth.

And of His kingdom there **will** be no end- it will be eternal. The HS **will** come upon you. The power of the most high **will** overshadow you, the child to be born **will** be holy, and He **will** be called the Son of God.

Every one of those things happened exactly as the angel said they would. Those things took place to show Mary and Joseph, and you and I, that nothing **will** be impossible with God. God may not send an angel like He did to Mary and Joseph, but He is still choosing people- even people like us- to accomplish His divine will, all the while allowing us free choice. It is one of the most wondrous mysteries of the season. Tonight, along with millions of others, we have come to worship that same Jesus, the Son of God, the Lord of Salvation, who came into the world to save us from our sins by dying on the cross. He was resurrected from the dead and returned to His Father in heaven. He has promised to come back to earth again soon, not as a baby but as Lord and King over all. It will happen, just as sure as you and I are here tonight. Let us continue to prepare to meet Him when that glorious day comes. Amen