

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?'" *Luke 1: 34***

I am certain that you remember the context of this verse. This was Mary's initial response to the angel, Gabriel, when he told Mary that she was going to give birth to Jesus. It was before she was married. For most people in our day and age having a child before being married is not a big deal. For Mary, this was an impossibility outside of God's intervention. She was a virgin, and would remain a virgin until she had a husband, and so this was what prompted her logistical question of "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Most human beings are very logistically-minded. It's great to have an idea of what we would like to see happen, but we know that nothing will happen without a concrete plan. I wonder if the part that follows Mary's question would have been in the Bible if Mary had not asked her question. In response to Mary's question, the angel said, "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 – the Son of God." If Mary had not asked this logistical question, would there be a gap in our theology regarding the question of how Mary became pregnant? We confess this important nugget of theology in the Creeds when we say that we believe that Jesus "was conceived by the Holy Spirit."

Although, Mary's fiance, Joseph, was also a logistical man. When he found out that Mary was pregnant, he thought that she had been unfaithful to him, and so he planned on calling off the marriage. That's when an angel told him that the Holy Spirit was responsible for her pregnancy. What if Joseph had planned to just let it slide when he thought she had been unfaithful to him. Maybe the angel would not have told him how she had become pregnant either.

Here's the point ... God does not HAVE TO answer our logistical questions when He tells us His plans. Actually, He doesn't even always tell us His plans. They just unfold according to His will. But God decided to answer both Mary and Joseph's logistical questions about her pregnancy. Maybe this was for our sakes as well, so that we would know how it was that Jesus came into world.

Childlike faith is a gift from God. Children don't usually worry about logistics. Children who believe in Santa Claus don't often ask logistical questions about how Santa is able to travel around the whole world in one night, shimmying down every chimney with a sack of toys. They just accept it. What if we just accepted every promise that God makes without worrying ourselves about the logistics. Even if Mary had not asked her famous question, "How will this be, since I am a virgin," and if God had not gone into detail about the Holy Spirit's role in the whole thing, it would have still happened in just the way that God planned for it to happen.

Maybe you have some logistical questions about things in your life. Sometimes God just tells us that certain things WILL happen without telling us HOW or WHEN they will happen. For example, God says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." No details. No explanations. Just the promise. Or what about when the Bible says, "In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." No details about what the "good" is that God promises to work. Just that He will work it.

Faith hears what God promises and latches onto it and lets God worry about the logistics.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim