

**Title:** *God picked you!*

**Text:** Luke 1:26-30; Matthew 1:18-25

**Target Statement:** God chooses ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary plan.

1. **God Breaks the Silence in a Unique Way:** *"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God..."* (Luke 1:26a)
  - a. **Silent Years:** 400 Years of Silence between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament.
  - b. **Gabriel is Sent:** Not a prophet, but an angel
2. **God Shows Up in Unlikely Places:** *"to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,"* (Luke 1:26b)
  - a. **Galilee:** The Region of the Gentiles
    - i. **For the Unclean**
    - ii. **For the Nations**
  - b. **Nazareth:** *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* (John 1:46)
    - i. **For the Unwanted**
    - ii. **For the Forgotten**
3. **God Chooses an Unknown Couple:** *"To a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; And the virgin's name was Mary."* (Luke 1:27)
  - a. **Time of Engagement:** *"Betrothed"*
  - b. **Lineage of Joseph:** *"House of David"*
    - i. **Righteous:** *"Joseph, being a just man..."* (Matthew 1:19)
    - ii. **Responsive:** *"he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him"* (Matthew 1:24)
    - iii. **Redemptive:** *"unwilling to put her to shame..."* (Matthew 1:19)
  - c. **Reputation of Mary:** *"Virgin"*
    - i. **Devout to Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55
    - ii. **Humble:** She was surprised in the story of Luke 1.
    - iii. **Set Apart:** Her physical purity matched her pursuit of Godly purity. \*Not sinless, but separated.
4. **God Bestows an Undeserved Greeting:** *"And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!'"* (Luke 1:28)
  - a. **Grace in the Greeting:** *"favored" & "The Lord is with you."*
    - i. **Mary was Disturbed:** *"But she was greatly troubled at the saying,"* (Luke 1:29a)
    - ii. **Mary was Discerning:** *"and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be."* (Luke 1:29b)
  - b. **Faith over Fear:** *"And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'" (Vs. 30)*
    - i. **Commanded:** *"Do not be afraid"*
    - ii. **Commissioned:** *"Mary, for you..."*
    - iii. **Covered:** *"found favor with God"* \*Psalm 5:12

**Takeaway:** God specializes in showing up in overlooked places and using overlooked people! Ask Joseph and Mary.