

Getting Started

1. Does the birth of Jesus still leave you in awe? Why or why not?
2. How would people respond to Mary's story if it happened today?
3. With the birth of Jesus being such a humble event, does Christmas get warped into something it was never meant to be?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 35:

Q. What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God,¹ took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,² from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,³ a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant,⁴ like his brothers and sisters in every way⁵ except for sin.⁶

¹ John 1:1; 10:30-36; Acts 13:33 (Ps. 2:7); Col. 1:15-17; 1 John 5:20 ² Luke 1:35 ³ Matt. 1:18-23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14 ⁴ 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Matt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3 ⁵ Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:17 ⁶ Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27

Why was it important for Jesus to be human?

6. Read Matthew 1:18-25. How does Matthew's telling compliment Luke's? Are there any glaring differences? Are they both showing the same thing?
7. Read Luke 1:11-20 and 1:26-38. Compare and contrast Zechariah's encounter with Gabriel and Mary's encounter with Gabriel.
8. In Luke 1:32, Gabriel says that Jesus will be given the throne of David. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Psalm 89:29. What does this promise mean and how did God fulfill it in Jesus?

Application

9. As the birth of Jesus unfolds in the gospel of Luke we see many people who are involved prior to Jesus' birth. As the mother of Jesus, Mary gets a lot of attention, but because we hear this story so often her trust in God often gets overlooked. Mary is a great example to all who wish to follow God. Trust in him and know that Jesus Christ came to seek and save the lost.

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · December 10, 2017

Advent

“Trust through the Unexpected”

“And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.”

Luke 1:10-12

- God called a _____ woman to be the mother of Jesus.
- Mary is a great _____ of _____.
- God broke into the world at an unexpected _____, in an unexpected _____, through an unexpected _____ and the world has been changed dramatically every since.

Topics: Trust, faith, wonder