

20th December 2020 – ADVENT 4 – Mary – Hugh’s Sermon

In The Name of Our Creator, The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer
And The Triune Spirit who is with Us Always.

Notes

Today is the last week in Advent and we have from the Gospel of Luke his understanding the conception of Mary, to give birth to a Son, and was conceive by the Spirit of The One True God, that is what Luke's Gospel wants you and I to believe ?

I do not often give my sermons a title but I have called today sermon HOW CAN WE BELIEVE THIS?

The angel Gabriel was sent to Nazareth to tell Mary she was to conceive a son by the Spirit of The One True God, The Son of the Most High.

So what do you think about that?. What kind of story is this? My brothers and sisters before you answer my question do you remember what you say every time you pray the creeds ? Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Mary and became truly human.

Today you and I will look at three questions?

First, how could Luke know all of this ?

Second, how could this possibly happen?

Third, what does it mean for you and I ? but the big question is what does it mean to you and I?

How could Luke know it how could this happen? And what does it mean for us, How could Luke know it.

I ask you this question ? Do you know who Luke was? Yes, he was the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the book of the Acts. That is from his pen that we know both the life of Jesus and about a history of the early church, and was a convert of Paul. But who was Luke ? As much as we know from the Gospel itself and also church tradition, Luke was a physician, educated in Greek tradition a man of sciences. I would say a well-educated man. So, how did Luke know about the conception of Jesus? He explains it in the beginning of his Gospel account. That is, he closely examined testimonies of eyewitnesses and testimonies of those to whom the Gospel was entrusted. So when Luke refers to eye witnesses they could be the apostles, or Jesus brothers and even Mary herself. When we see how close these events were in time, Jesus resurrection and ministry of Luke were separated may be only by a decade, it helps us to appreciate the message of his Gospel as a historical record.

This is how Luke knew this was the whole purpose for Luke writing his Gospel account, to check the facts from eyewitnesses, Luke was a doctor scientifically minded man. And wanted to check everything carefully so that we can be certain about how everything happened.

Lets get to our second question.

How could this possibly happen ?

You know about angel Gabriel. We do not know what Gabriel looked like. But just showed up and said: "Greetings, O favoured one, the God is with you!" but we know how Mary reacted to this greeting. She was greatly troubled. Gabriel saw that Mary was greatly troubled and said to Mary "Do not be afraid, Mary for you have found favour with God Spirit". We can imagine this young girl being approached by an angle being quite scary. Gabriel goes on to say to Mary "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High. In other words, he will be called the Son of God. But Mary was a young girl, she did not worry about these great things, she was worried about. How could this happen, since I have not laid with a man. How could I conceive a Son, if I do not have a husband yet ? Again Gabriel answered her and said " The Spirit of God will come upon you, therefore the child to be born will be called , The Son of God.

My brothers and sisters what does it mean to you and I the Spirit of God ? And it will come upon you ?

I believe we can understand what Gabriel is saying in our faith lives today. When we are building that strong relationship with The One True God, But Mary without questioning answer. "Behold, I am the servant of GOD; let it be to me according to God's Spirit".

It is clear not because we can understand or explain it, and Luke as a doctor knew it very well, my brothers and sisters you and I know who is at work in Mary's Life, as well as our own. If you and I believe that God created this mother earth, Mary's conception was a small part of God's plan. We cannot explain more than the angel revealed only Mary herself later shared with others. This is as much as is given to us. But what is given is very simple and clear. Jesus is the Son of God. Conceived by the Spirit of God. It is clear not because we can understand or explain it, and Luke as a doctor knew it very well, it is clear for we know whose Spirit was at work with Mary and A Son was born. My brothers and sisters do we believe that the Spirit of God created this mother earth, for you and I.

Now the last question, what does this event of Mary conceiving A Son ?.

It is not easy to believe that there was an angel. But let it be. FAITH It is not easy to believe what this angel said to Mary, what will happen, but let it be FAITH. If Mary herself testified about this, and if Jesus proved that Jesus is exactly what the angel said, let it be, we'll take it. FAITH.

But my brothers and sisters we can measure evidence and go where highest probability leads us, to take this to be a true account of what happened. But so far can you accept what Luke has written in his Gospel ?

Hear what Mary replies " I am the servant of The One True God", let it be to me according to your word."

you and I can learn from Mary, Is our faith strong enough to do what God's Spirit tells you and I to Do?.

But to Mary she was in total commitment to the God's Spirit. There will be no way back for Mary. I ask you

this can we be true to ourselves and say I do not understand, How can this be ? Have you question when

you were baptized a child of God Spirit Faith. But what is the message that Luke is telling you and I. Is our

relationship with the One True God as strong as Mary's, Let it be according to you word, Amen