



Slow Down for Reflection
Series: The Christmas You've Always Longed For (#1)
Luke 1:26-45
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
December 3, 2023

Theme: **A Christ-honoring Christmas requires calm consideration.**

Chaos Strikes.

1. A surprise appearance. (26-30)
2. A startling greeting. (28)
3. A shocking message. (30-37)

Chaos Stilled.

1. A process of thorough thought. (29)
2. An acceptance, and obedience to God. (38)
3. A place and time of quietness and reflection. (39-40)

Chaos For You This Christmas?

1. Initiate your own process of thorough thought.
2. Accept and pursue what is really important in this Christmas season.
3. Take time for quietness, to slow down and reflect.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Advent has begun and, as it has been said, “the Christmas season is about to ambush us from behind.” As we plan to enjoy a Christ-honoring Christmas this year, we will be looking at lessons God has for us from Mary, Jesus’ mother. Read Luke 1:26-45 slowly and carefully, as if you had never read or heard it before.

Tuesday. From the beginning with the starting appearance of the angel Gabriel, Mary began an ongoing process of thoroughly thinking through all she had seen and was told. Have you taken any time yet in this season to think about what is really important about Christmas? About how you can have a truly Christ-honoring Christmas? Begin and/or continue that now.

Wednesday. Read Luke 1:30-37 and then make a list of what Gabriel told Mary. If you had never heard this before I am sure you would describe it as unbelievable — in capital letters! Write out in your own words Mary’s response in verse 38. At the midpoint of this first week of Advent are you listening to God’s Word? Are you trusting God so as to accept and obey His word ... readily, fully?

Thursday. When the angel Gabriel left, Mary quickly went from Nazareth to the hill country of Judah and spent three months with relatives. She took time for quietness, to continue thinking through what was happening and to reflect. Plan some quiet times throughout the rest of this season to slow down and reflect on what Christmas is really about, and your relationship with God.

Friday – Saturday. Sunday we will focus on the Second Sunday of Advent and keeping a Christ-centered focus during the season. In preparation, read Mary’s testimony in Luke 1:46-55.