



I. INTRO

- A. The Christmas story isn't just for Christmas
- The Miraculous

Luke 1:26-35 (NIV) ²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

- B. The Holy Spirit will come upon you
- People in the first century believed in Roman and Greek gods

Eperchomai – **Greek:** "to come along side or draw near to you"

- God wasn't asking for her fertility, He was asking for her faith

II. EASTER ISN'T JUST FOR EASTER

- A. The Power
- The disciples are eye witnesses of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

Acts1:4-6 (NIV) ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

- They still didn't understand that Jesus was going to leave them

Acts1:7-8 (NIV) ⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- There are many unknowns, but you can trust the Holy Spirit to come alongside of you and produce miraculous power
- They were living by faith, not explanation



B. The Comfort

John 14:15-17 (TLB) “If you love me, obey me; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Comforter, and he will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, for it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, for he lives with you now and someday shall be in you.

- You need the comforter in your life so you can live outside of your comfort zone
- The opposite of faith is not fear, but familiarity
- The Holy Spirit wants to be your home

C. The Breath

- We don’t need answers as much as we need God’s presence

Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NKJV) The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”

- When we’re not sure what the outcome might be, we can trust the goodness of God

Ezekiel 37:4-8 (NKJV) ⁴ Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord.” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them.

- When we feel as though we don’t have enough, God is more than enough

Ezekiel 37:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

- What do you need to speak to? What do you want God to breathe upon?