

CHRISTMAS AT CHETS IS ABOUT SERVING

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Luke 1:26-45 (NIV)

❖ The HEART of a Servant:

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Luke 1:26-28 (NIV)

1. We see a heart that is CONSISTENT.
2. We see a heart that has great CHARACTER.
3. We see a heart that is CONNECTED to God.

➤ Key Truth: The heart of a servant reflects the HEART of CHRIST.
Instead of this, of his own free will (Jesus) gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness.

Philippians 2:7 (TEV)

❖ The ATTITUDE of a Servant:

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his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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." ... For nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:29-35;37 (NIV)

1. The COURAGE to trust God despite your FEARS.
2. The FAITH to honor God with a HOLY LIFE.
3. The MIND that believes that God has the POWER to use me no matter what.

➤ Key Truth: A servant must make the MENTAL DECISION to follow Christ.
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

❖ The TESTIMONY of a Servant:

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!'"

Luke 1:38-45 (NIV)

1. I have a DESIRE to do GOD'S WILL no matter what.
2. I have a HUNGER to see God WORK and MOVE in my life.
3. I choose a LIFESTYLE that allows others to see JESUS in my LIFE.

➤ Key Truth: A servant's greatest desire is to bring GLORY to his MASTER.
This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting—God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (MSG)