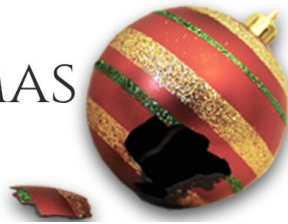


BEST THE WORST CHRISTMAS EVER



Pastor Kris Beckert
News December 3, 2017
Luke 1:1-4, 26-38

The ~~Worst~~-Best

What part of Christmas do you look forward to?
What part of Christmas do you not look forward to?

Have you ever received something you didn't ask for?

Luke 1:1-4 *Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.*

I. Two types of news:

1. The _____ news

Luke 1:26-27 *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

2. The _____ news

Luke 1:28-33 *And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

Mary's unexpected news:

1. The _____ is with you.
2. You will bear _____.
3. He will be _____.

II. Two responses to unexpected news:

1. The expected response: _____

Luke 1:34 *Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"*

2. The unexpected response: _____

Luke 1:35-38 *The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

Main Point: _____

Doggy Bag: Some questions to chew on.



1. Do you tend to think of the Christmas story as a fairy tale or an "orderly account" based on the testimony of eyewitnesses? Explain.
2. What news have you been expecting? Has that expectation been met?
3. What unexpected news has rocked your world? What are you doing with the news you didn't ask for? Do you sense God with you?
4. Have you written the end of the news story because you think you know what is possible? Where is God showing you possibilities you don't want to see? What promise of God feels impossible right now?
5. What could be possible if you considered God—and took the risky step to trust him?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email krisbeckert@thevineva.org/ call 215.237.4959 to set up an appointment.