

THE BEST GIFT (2)

The Preparation for the Gift

Luke 1:26–38; Matthew 1:18–25

Introduction: “Before Jesus was born, God prepared hearts, homes, and history for His arrival.”

I. God prepared hearts by inspiring faith:

A. **Mary** (Luke 1:26–38) responded with faith to Gabriel’s announcement.

MacArthur- Nothing in Mary’s background prepared her for this calling except her purity and faith.

- “Behold the bondservant of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)
- “Nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37)

B. **Joseph** (Matt. 1:18–25) trusted the angel’s message and obeyed.

- “Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” (Matt. 1:24)
- Joseph didn’t understand “how,” but he believed “who” was speaking – God’s messenger – and obeyed.

C. **Others:** Zechariah, Elizabeth (Luke 1:24–25), Simeon, Anna (Luke 2:25–38)

- Simeon: “My eyes have seen Your salvation...” (Luke 2:30–32)
- Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is “being sure of what we hope for...”

When God speaks, we too can say, “Here am I, Lord, let it be according to Your word” (Luke 1:38)

These are our examples: Say “yes” to God’s Word, even when you don’t fully understand.

II. God prepared homes and people to welcome Christ:

A. **God used a Roman census to fulfill prophecy** (Luke 2:4–7)

- Micah 5:2 – Bethlehem
- Isaiah 7:14 – Virgin birth (Matt. 1:23)

John Piper points out, “promise after promise had pointed to the day when a son of David would come, a king, an heir to the throne”.

B. **Mary and Joseph’s home became the first cradle of faith.**

- Luke 1:39–45 – Elizabeth’s encouragement
- David Jeremiah writes that** “Gabriel said, ‘The Lord is with you,’ and as a result, the Lord is with us all” – Mary’s cooperation brought God near to the world.

C. God prepares our hearts as His dwelling place.

Luke 1:17, 76; Luke 2:31; Rev. 3:20

We are to prepare Him room – clear out the spiritually declutter and welcome Christ.

D. Gal. 4:4 – Trust His timing

III. God prepared history in the fullness of time:

A. **Paul explained** -Galatians 4:4 – “When the fullness of time had come...”

- Genesis 3:15, Isaiah, Micah, Daniel – centuries of prophecy fulfilled

John MacArthur underscores this: commenting the coming of Christ was the “high point of God’s redemptive plan,” and it happened “at the very most crucial moment” when “all of the issues were in perfect confluence”.

- Matthew 1:23 – “Immanuel... God with us”

B. Matthew 28:20, 1 Cor. 15:25 – He reigns today and will come again

God is still writing history — He is still weaving our lives into His story - make space for Christ in yours.

IV. Applying this Christmas preparation:

A. **Like Mary & Joseph:** Listen (Luke 2:19), Trust (Isaiah 55:8–9; Heb. 11:6), Obey (James 1:22)

B. **Remember, Christmas isn’t only about history,** it’s about presence: Emmanuel, God with us.

1. Prepare Him room:
2. Forgive, let go of pride, make peace, invite Christ into your home & life.

Conclusion: Let this Advent be a time of faith and preparation. Trust God’s timing, listen for His angels in life (they may come as quiet convictions or bold ideas), and when He says, “go forward,” go forward.