



## “The Miracle of the Impossible”

Luke 1:26-38

**Idea:** For nothing is impossible with God.

**Intro:** On August 27, 1883, there were Australian ranchers in Alice Springs, Australia, who early in the morning heard what sounded like gunshots. Now in the Outback of Australia, you want to know who is shooting at what and whether or not it is something you need to prepare for, especially in the 1880s. And so they wondered, what was it that happened? What has taken place? We clearly heard gunshots.

Well, what they heard were not gunshots. They heard something that was 2,200 miles away. And you say, “That is impossible.” No it is not. It is recorded in history. What they heard was the eruption of a volcano on the Indonesian island of Krakatau. They heard the explosion 2,200 miles away in the middle of the Australian continent. It was the loudest sound in recorded history. That is, nothing in this world has ever been louder. Not even the bombs dropped on Nagasaki or Hiroshima were louder. Nothing has come close to the sound from the volcanic eruption on that Indonesian island.

The sound was so loud it killed people for distances. Do you know that a sound can kill you? At 202 decibels, you will die. A sound can take your life. The volcanic eruption on Krakatau Island was at 310 decibels. One and a half times more than what is needed to take someone's life. It was heard 2,200 miles away, but the sound wave carried around the earth four times...25,000 miles. And it was so distinguishable that people 12,500 miles away, on the other side of the earth, could tell in a moment the movement of air pressure when the sound waves, which they could not hear, moved past them.

Let me tell you something. That is the way God's power works. What seems to be impossible is possible. How could anyone hear something that takes place 2,200 miles away? Most of us have a hard time hearing our spouse's voice from across the room. Yet those ranchers heard the volcano. That eruption reminds us of the awesome power of God.

*The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth  
and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"*  
– Psalm 29:9

The voice of God, the command of God can do anything. There was a moment in eternity past when God said, "Let there be," and instantly there came into existence everything we know to be today. There is nothing impossible with God, and we see this reality magnified in the Christmas story.

Read Luke 1:26-38.

**Inquiry:** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel brought a second birth announcement. This time he would visit a young virgin in Nazareth named Mary. She was a close relative of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

The people in Judah disdained the Jews in Galilee and claimed they were not kosher because of their contacts with the Gentiles there (Matt 4:15). They especially despised the people from Nazareth (John 1:45-46). But God in His grace

chose a girl from Nazareth in Galilee to be the mother of the promised Messiah.

When it comes to Mary, people tend to go to one of two extremes. They either magnify her so much that Jesus takes second place (Luke 1:32), or they ignore her and fail to give her the esteem she deserves (Luke 1:48).

Who was Mary and what was she like? The Bible tells us that Mary was a Jewess of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, and a virgin (Is 7:14). She was engaged to a carpenter in Nazareth named Joseph (Matt 13:55), and apparently both of them were poor (Lev 12:8; Luke 2:24). Among the Jews at that time, engagement was almost as binding as marriage and could be broken only by divorce. In fact, the man and the woman were called “husband” and “wife” even before the marriage took place. Jewish girls usually married young, so it is likely that Mary was a teenager when the angel appeared to her.

The visitation and message from the angel reminded Mary and reminds us today that nothing is impossible with God. So many times in life we forget this wonderful truth. We get bogged down by the weight and trappings of life and forget that God is able. When the scan comes back positive at the oncologist’s office, we can forget that God is Jehovah-Rapha, the God who heals. When called into the supervisor’s office and handed a pink slip, we can forget that God is Jehovah-Jireh, the God who provides. When someone close to us dies, we can forget that God is Jehovah-Shalom, my peace. When we are abandoned by others and left all alone, we can forget that God is Jehovah-Shammah, the God who is there. Nothing is too great or too low for God. He can do anything, and the Christmas story reminds us that He desires to do the impossible in our lives today.

In this passage we see the miracle of the impossible. We see God do things that no one else could do then or can do today. Lets look at the miracle of the impossible in three accounts:

## **1. In the Barren (vs. 36, 57-66)**

Gabriel's declaration overwhelmed Mary. It caused her to ask, "How will this be?" Mary's question was not evidence of unbelief. She believed the promise, but she did not understand the performance. In order to assure and remind her that God was able, Gabriel informed Mary that something similar had taken place in Elizabeth. He said, "Mary, your God is a miracle worker. He delights in doing the impossible. In fact your relative Elizabeth is six months pregnant, and they won't call her barren any longer. She will have a son."

Mary knew Elizabeth well. She was Mary's aunt. She knew that Zechariah and Elizabeth were not able to have children. She knew the disgrace they both had felt for years. She knew they had tried everything possible to have children, but had been unsuccessful. The only explanation for Elizabeth being pregnant was God had done it. God had performed the miracle of the impossible in the barren. Next, He would do it in the virgin.

## **2. In the Virgin (vs 35)**

What was to take place in and through Mary had never happened before, and it has not happened since. It was impossible. There was and is no possible way for a baby to be born without a mom and a dad. There is no natural way. It would have to be a supernatural work. And Gabriel explained that she would experience a miracle, the work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her betrothed, would not be the father of the child (Matt 1:18-25), even though Jesus would be legally identified as the son of Joseph (Luke 3:23; 4:22; John 1:45).

Gabriel was careful to point out that the Baby would be a "holy thing" and would not share the sinful human nature of man. Jesus would know no sin. Therefore,

He would have no sinful nature or act in any sinful way. His body was prepared for Him by the Holy Spirit (Heb 10:5) who overshadowed Mary. That word is applied to the presence of God in the holy of holies in the tabernacle and temple. Mary's womb became the holy of holies for the Son of God.

Why? Why was the Holy Spirit going to overshadow Mary and cause her to conceive the Son? Why would the Baby to be born be the holy Son of God? What was the purpose for the miracle of the impossible that was performed in the virgin? These questions lead us to the third account...the miracle of the impossible in the sinner.

### **3. In the Sinner (vs. 31-33)**

This miraculous account is so beautifully portrayed in the Christmas hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Listen to the first two verses:

O come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From the depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

The Bible tells us Jesus was born of a virgin in order to save sinners. He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He came to do for sinners what they could not do for themselves.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

– 2 Cor 5:21

The miracle of the impossible that overshadowed Mary happened so that sinners could be forgiven. Jesus came to set the captives free.

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." – Luke 4:18-19*

**Conclusion:** The miracle of the impossible, the miracle of Christmas is all about salvation. It is about a God who loved men, women, boys, and girls enough to sacrifice His own Son in order to redeem them. As we peer into Bethlehem and observe Mary giving birth to the Son, we see more than a story; it'll set you free.

Are you tired of running? Are you tired of the shame? The Baby born in that manger can break every chain. He is glorious and awesome! Angels filled up the heavens with the sound of His name. He is the promised One. He is the only Son. He is the Peasant King who changed everything.

Jesus went from a throne to a manger, trading glory for shame...from a King to a stranger, with a love to proclaim as the angels filled up the heavens with the sound of His name. Today, come and adore Him on bended knee. Lay your burden at the feet of Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

For nothing is impossible with God. He speaks and the deer give birth, the forests are stripped bare, volcanoes erupt, and the dead are raised to life again. Mary believed this, so she said, "Let it be according to your word (vs. 38)."