

Nothing is Impossible With God

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Two weeks ago at Chrysalis those gathered explored the theme Got Faith?! At the end of the statement and or question Got Faith was a punctuation mark called an interrobang. An interrobang is an exclamation point inside a question mark. This punctuation mark can ask a question in an excited manner, express excitement or disbelief in the form of a question, or ask a rhetorical question. For the most part at Chrysalis we viewed the interrobang as expressing excitement or disbelief in the form of a question.

Throughout the weekend we talked about what faith is, things that make us doubt God, and what we feel God is asking us to do in this world.

I have to admit that I was a little excited when I saw the scripture reading for Saturday morning's small group session. The scripture passage was today's gospel reading.

In our small groups we looked at this story to help us define faith. My small group talked about Mary's trust and belief in God as the angel told her that she would have God's son. We also talked about the amount of courage Mary had when she said "Here am I, a servant of the Lord."

If we think for a moment about the culture in Mary's day, Mary had everything to lose. Joseph could dismiss her as his wife. She would've

been an outcast in society. And yet, she trusted and believed what the angel was telling her. She found favor with God and heard from the angel – “Nothing will be impossible with God.”

Mary’s faith – her trust and belief gave her the courage to say “Here am I, as servant of the Lord.”

We can learn a great deal from Mary. With the odds against her, she still followed God. She went against the norms of society – as did Joseph after an angel appeared to him and told him not to dismiss Mary. This young couple seemed to put their fears and anxieties aside. They may have been concerned about what other people thought about them.

Mary and Joseph trusted and believed in the messages that God's angels shared with them and did something that no one would've expected in their day – they stayed together and traveled to Bethlehem.

When I think about Mary saying to the angel, “Here am I a servant of the Lord” – I have to admit I'm envious. I think for me at times I worry about what others will think of me for doing what God asks me to do.

I think it's easy for each of us to let our fears, prejudices, and anxieties get the best of us. It's easy to come up with why we don't want to help with a ministry or when we choose to walk by someone in need. It's hard to do what God asks of us from time to time... which leads me back to the interrobang. It is an exclamation point inside a question mark. We are always reminded of Mary's faith and courage as she steps

up as God's servant, but I can't help but wonder in her statement, here am I, a servant of the Lord – if there was a question. Here am I, a servant of the Lord? I think we can look at it both ways. Mary's statement show great courage, trust, and belief in God. I imagine since she was a young adolescent when the angel appeared to her she probably had concerns and fears and her statement to the angel could also have been one in disbelief. God chose me to do this?

At Chrysalis we talked about Mary's faith and her response in relation to the theme Got Faith!? We discussed both sides – Mary's exclamation and possibly the disbelief in her words, Here am I, a servant of the Lord.

In the midst of these discussions, our focus shifted from Mary to the angel's statement, "For nothing will be impossible with God." God will

use us in our moments of trust and belief and God will use us in our moments of disbelief and questions.

“Nothing is impossible with God.” In our moments of asking God the question – God, you want me to do this?! Know that nothing is impossible with God.

Mary demonstrates that with God all things are possible. She travels to Bethlehem with Joseph and gives birth to God’s son in a lowly stable.

God uses us. He uses us to share the story of his Son’s birth. He uses us to provide basic resources for those who don’t have any. God uses us to show his love to others.

Here we are, servants of the Lord. Nothing will be impossible with God.

The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding be in your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus the Lord. Amen.