

RSVP

Repondez, s'il vous plait.

PLEASE RESPOND TO MY INVITATION: ACCEPT OR DECLINE

There is a special event. We have a seat just for you.
Usually a fancy special party. For a VIP.

God is inviting us to the CELEBRATION of Christmas.

THE INVITATION

Start by looking at Mary in Luke 1: 26-27

Sent a messenger with an invitation. To Nazareth. A small unimportant village.

Too a virgin named Mary. She was young. She was poor. She was engaged. She was from a small town.

But she was visited by a special angel with an invitation.

Luke 1:28 "Greetings you who are highly favored.

Reality was she was poor and young and just a nobody.

BUT GOD THINKS DIFFERENTLY: "highly favored"

Mary was invited to a new identity.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IS THAT YOU ARE HIGHLY
FAVORED. YOU ARE INVITED TO A NEW IDENTITY. YOU ARE
A VIP!

Not because of who you are but because of a GREAT GOD. You are important and HIGHLY favored.

Luke 1:28b "The Lord is with you". The Lord is inviting you into a relationship. He wants to BE with you.

Christmas is about God wanting to BE with us. He thinks we are exciting, special. God thinks of me differently than I think of myself.

RSVP??? How does Mary respond to the invitation?

Luke 1:29 Mary was greatly troubled!

God had just told her that she was special. She was great. She was favored. That HE wanted a relationship with her.

HER response was that SHE WAS TROUBLED. WHY?

Because we all know who we are. We all know we are sinners. WE all know where we have come from, not just Mary. We are all shocked that God wants a personal relationship with us. That HE wants to BE with us. That HE invites us to his party.....

HE has given us an invitation to a new destiny, into a new relationship, into a new identity. A GREAT INVITATION.

Christmas is that time when we need to get beyond the commercialism and materialism and focus on what God says and thinks.

THAT WE ARE FAVORED, we are important and HE LOVES US!

Luke 1:30 DON'T BE AFRAID. Fear is our greatest enemy and hinders us from getting close to God.

THE IMPOSSIBILITY:

That was a nice invitation. BUT Mary was invited to something impossible. Do we feel we have been invited to something impossible?

IF we look at scripture we will see that a lot of people were given impossible invitations. Abraham and Isaac. Moses and Joshua. The list is LONG.

IF you find yourself in that situation you can believe it is almost always GOD.

Luke 1:31-33 Mary you will conceive, you will have a son, you will call him Jesus. IMPOSSIBLE!

Luke 1:34 HOW CAN THIS BE???

"I'm a virgin". This is scandalous. This is a small town. How will I tell Joseph? It is emotionally draining.

Some things God tells you to do are not the same thing he tells others. They are not easy to explain,

After Mary was pregnant.....An emotional, insecure time. AN Impossible situation. A fugitive! She gave birth in a stable in front of a cow!!

Mary, I QUIT!! I don't want to be a Christian. I'm DONE! How could this invitation be from God? It is too hard, too IMPOSSIBLE!

THEN the baby is GOD! IMPOSSIBLE!!!

There was the drain and strain and stress. WHAT IF THE POLICE FIND HIM?

YEAH! IT'S CHRISTMAS! WHOO HOO! NOT!

There were years of wondering why. Did God really invite her to this? Did God invite you to this? Did HE invite me to this?

WHAT will Mary RSVP?

THE INFUSION:

LUKE 1:35 The angel says IT IS POSSIBLE because the Holy Spirit will come on you! The power of the most high will overshadow you.

The Holy Spirit enables us to do what we can not do in our own strength. What is physically impossible. What is emotionally draining.

HE CAN DO IT FOR YOU. HE WILL COME UPON YOU!

ACTS 1:8 You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

The HOLY SPIRIT helps us see beyond the natural.

The Holy spirit gives us wisdom. He teaches us.

Mary was able to survive, to obey what God was asking of her NOT because of HER faith alone. NOT by trying hard. BUT because of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Mary was able to find joy giving birth in a stable, endure running from the police, eventually watching her SON die on the cross. She survived it all. Was it easy? NO

BUT she had a promise. She had an invitation. She had the Holy Spirit.

Eph 1:14 When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised HOLY SPIRIT, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.

Like Mary we have a deposit guaranteeing us what is to come. We have a promise.

WE don't fully understand. WE don't think we can do it physically. We don't think we can handle it emotionally. BUT BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES.....

Luke 1:37 With God nothing will be impossible.

HOW did Mary RSVP?

Luke 1:38 “ Let it be to me according to your word!”

QUIET YOURSELVES....Let the Holy Spirit speak to you.

He is saying....

I love you.

You are highly favored.

Slow down....I want a relationship with you.

Don't get distracted.

Listen.

Impossible situations, ordeals you go through, you will never understand until the Holy Spirit shows you.

Don't copy models. Don't try to be like others. Don't try to do what God has told someone else.

Take time this Christmas season to be quiet. IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL. To invite the Holy Spirit to come to you and let HIM infuse you. Let him speak to you.

Listen to HIM! Let HIM give you HIS plan just for YOU.

**LET US RSVP TO OUR INVITATION FROM GOD BY
AGREEING WITH MARY.....**

LORD LET IT BE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD!

Prayer:

Lord, infuse us with your Holy Spirit. Teach us to be quick to listen. To be lead by your word. Teach us to be sensitive to your leading and desires and destiny for our lives. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.