

-- December 20 --

The “Uncomfortably Exciting” Call Of God

Luke 1:26-38

When was the last time God called you to something enormous? When did he call you to something that was completely beyond you, yet was so compelling that you pursued it anyways?

Recently I was reading Dr. Henry Cloud’s book, *The Power of the Other*, and in it he quotes Google co-founder Larry Page who observed that people who change the world are always working hard at something that makes them “uncomfortably excited.” This turn of phrase captured my attention and resonated in my spirit. God’s calling upon our lives can often produce this inner surge of both uneasiness and motivation.

God’s call upon Mary set her on the course of the “uncomfortably exciting.” Luke records Mary’s reaction as greatly troubled (1:29), confused (1:34), and then obedient (1:38). The process of getting from greatly troubled and confused to obedient only takes a few verses in the text, but perhaps it took a longer time in her spirit. Maybe I’m a slow learner, but I’m prone to stay stuck in the greatly troubled and confused stage as I wrestle with fear, feelings of inadequacy, and arguing with God about the wisdom of his selection of people (me!) and the enormity of the task he’s set before me.

Perhaps Mary was able to move through these reactions because she caught the vision of what God wanted to do in the world and realized that nothing was impossible with God; and I imagine the angelic visit was pretty compelling as well! The angel assured her that the Holy Spirit would be upon her and that the “power of the Most High will overshadow you” (1:35). Ultimately, God’s work is God’s work. Our job as his servants is to lean into our calling, which can only be accomplished as God fills us with his Spirit and his power overshadows us.

I’m motivated by Mary’s response to God’s “uncomfortably exciting” call upon her life. Her positive reaction to it paved the way for the greatest redemption story ever told.

Question to consider: What kind of “uncomfortably exciting” invitations is God sending your way?

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