



Grain

“Grace is the ability to redefine the boundaries of possibility.” Manning Marable

Field

“37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” St. Luke 1:37-38, 2:1-7

Thoughts

Mary said **Yes** to God. As a village girl surrounded by political and class power she did not share in, what did that Yes mean? Yes, to what seemed impossible? Yes, to being a part of a divine history of God born into our world? What else? We bring our own journeys to the question.

I think part of Mary’s Yes had to do with having faith in being loved by God. Just think if she had said “No, I can’t have such value; look at who I am in this world.” Many years ago, I had been away from the church for a while and when I returned at age 20 I discovered there was a kind of selfishness related to not loving myself; it was grace to have the insight that sometimes can fade. Accepting we are valued by God cuts through our own self judgments and labels we impose on one another to wield control. When we get lost in busyness and negative messages, a good spiritual exercise can be to pause and ask for God’s help in loving ourselves.

The Yes of Mary and Joseph and all who were part of the divine scenario in Bethlehem was also a **No** to limiting God and to marginalizing our sisters and brothers even in the face of dangerous powers. Bethlehem is a concrete distant place that set the stage for unearthing injustice in ourselves and society, but it is also close by and where we return for mercy when the Yes to God’s love has been difficult to say. Happy Monday! Have a blessed Christmas!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy