

CRAWFORD
BROADCASTING
COMPANY



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THE STAND
CHRISTMAS

FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE!

Luke 1:37.

NOTHING!

There was a priest by the name of Zacharias. He was a good man, pious and believing. He was a man of God, prayerful and deeply concerned with the things of the Lord. Luke tells us that Zacharias abided by the holy law in both letter and spirit. Zacharias was a man of God who had prayed long for a child. His wife Elizabeth was barren and there was no heir.

But then came the promise of God that Zacharias would have a child, a son and a very special son at that. That promise came from God through his angel Gabriel. The angel told Zacharias that the son to be born would be cast in the spirit and the power of Elijah. This son would be “great in the sight of the Lord” and would do mighty things. In short, this son would prepare the way of the Lord. What an incredible promise and blessing from God Almighty.

But Zacharias was afraid, sorely afraid. Even though a spiritual man, he doubted. How can I be sure, he said to the angel. For I am an old man, he said, and my wife Elizabeth is barren. Though he had spent his entire life serving God, he doubted the promise of God when it counted the most. How can I be sure, he said, for I am old and Elizabeth is barren and beyond child bearing age. I doubt this, he said in essence, and I really do not believe it will happen. Son John whom God had promised, simply seemed impossible. For no matter how much Zacharias may have known about the letter of the law or practiced that law in spirit, he really did not believe that NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

Then came the divine rebuke. Gabriel told Zacharias that, because he did not believe, he would be mute and he would not speak until the child was born. You will not speak because you do not believe that nothing is impossible with God. Nothing! Including the conception and birth of a special child from a barren womb. NOTHING! The birth of John The Baptist was a special birth, a miracle, a conception ordained by God with whom nothing is impossible!

Consider Joseph. A descendant of King David and consequently of Abraham the father, Joseph was a just and royal man. He was a good man, the Scriptures say, of stern principal, committed to the God of Abraham and the law, like Zacharias, in letter and spirit. He committed in marriage to Mary and they become engaged. During that engagement, Joseph found Mary with child fathered by someone else. He was angry as he should have been. He was hurt, deeply hurt, as he had every right to be. He did not understand nor could he accept what had happened. His desire was to “put her away”, and to divorce her because of the illegitimate child she carried. How awful, wounding so deeply it must be, for any man when a woman he loves and commits to is suspected of illicit intercourse and becomes pregnant as a result thereof. Betrayed in the worst way, that hurt runs deep.

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Then came the dream and the angel of the Lord appeared. The angel told Joseph that which is conceived in Mary is of the Holy Ghost. The conception and the child were ordained by God and when the child is born, the angel told Joseph to fear not, to take unto himself Mary as wife. For a virgin as the Scriptures promised, had conceived, and she shall bring forth a son and his name shall be called Emmanuel. GOD WITH US. Call his name Jesus, the angel said, for he will be Saviour to his people. His conception and birth, like John, was miraculous for NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD. NOTHING!

And Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had required. He took Mary as his wife but he “knew her not until she had brought forth her firstborn son and called his name Jesus.”

Two men. Two husbands. Two fathers. Two births, both miraculous. The one natural, the other supernatural. For nothing is impossible with God.

The one, Zacharias, fearful and afraid, doubting and uncertain. Not believing when it mattered most. Not trusting God when it mattered most. Made mute because of his unbelief. But from a man who doubted God came the man John The Baptist, a special prophet who made straight the way of the Lord. A man who called his brethren and fellow citizens to repentance and belief. God works with those who doubt for His glory, for nothing is impossible with God, nothing. The other man angry, hurt, and without understanding. A man bent on justice, making things right for wrong committed against him. Right to put away the woman who he believed engaged in fornication and forsook the vows she had made. But God used him nonetheless to be earthly father to Jesus, Emmanuel, and to allow him to play perhaps the most important role of any earthly father in history, shepherding the young years of the Son of God.

Two men, with hearts hardened, doubting, frustrated, angry, hurt, confused and uncertain. And God used them, both of him, for His purposes in a grand and glorious way, human and divine. For nothing is impossible with God, nothing. Not even Zacharias or Joseph. Nothing and no one.

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth goodwill toward men.

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