

They had, we need...

Pastor Blake Mattocks
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- They had a fearless faith
- They had conquering commitment
- They left a lasting legacy

God's divine selection has nothing to do with social standing, inheritance or talent.

Jesus was given gifts--a womb to be carried in, a stable to be born in; what gift would He want from you? _____

"That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were badly frightened, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior--yes, the Messiah, the Lord--has been born tonight in Bethlehem! How will you recognize him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger!' Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others--the armies of heaven--praising God: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,' they sang, 'and peace on earth for all those pleasing him.'"

Luke 2:8-14 (TLB)

"Jesus replied, 'Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming--indeed it's here now--when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.'"

John 4:21-24 (NLT)

The Christmas Invitation

Mary: At 15, I think I will wake up, ruin my life by getting labeled a harlot, and make up a crazy story about getting pregnant that no one will believe.

*"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named **Mary**. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, **Mary** tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, **Mary**,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!' **Mary** asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? I am a virgin.' The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.' **Mary** responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.' And then the angel left her."*

Luke 1:26-38 (NLT)

Joseph: I think I will be labeled a fool and a sucker, one who believes lies, willing to be laughed at.

*“These are the facts concerning the birth of Jesus Christ: His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to **Joseph**. But while she was still a virgin she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Then **Joseph**, her fiancée, being a man of stern principle, decided to break the engagement but to do it quietly, as he didn't want to publicly disgrace her. As he lay awake considering this, he fell into a dream, and saw an angel standing beside him. ‘**Joseph**, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘don't hesitate to take Mary as your wife! For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you shall name him Jesus (meaning “Savior”), for he will save his people from their sins. This will fulfill God's message through his prophets-“Listen! The virgin shall conceive a child! She shall give birth to a Son, and he shall be called ‘Emmanuel’ (meaning ‘God is with us’).”’ When **Joseph** awoke, he did as the angel commanded and brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her Son was born; and **Joseph** named him ‘Jesus.’”*

Matthew 1:18-25 (TLB)

John: I think I will live as a loner, solitary, strange, have no friends. I will clear the way, prepare the way, and get out of the way for the Lord.

*“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name **John**. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and*

the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:11-17 (NIV)

Magi: Let's completely disobey the king and ignore his command to us.

*“When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the **Magi**, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the **Magi**.”*
Matthew 2:16-17 (NIV)

Innkeeper: My once in a lifetime opportunity, no vacancies; they can't pay; this is not a maternity ward.

*“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, **because there was no room for them in the inn.**”*
Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

Why did the innkeeper turn Jesus away?

1. Because he was overcrowded
2. He made excuses; it's simply too late
3. He underestimated the divine encounters