



Comfort & Joy: Divine Favor

Luke 1:26-38

Ray Cortese, December 8 & 9, 2018



December is
INVITE
month.
Who will you
invite?

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Did you have someone's favor growing up? Were you someone's favorite? Discuss the following quote: "If you have the favor of God and nothing else then you have all that you need, if you have everything but the favor of God then you really have nothing at all."
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

DIVINE FAVOR: THE RECIPIENTS

- 3 Who are the usual recipients of favor in our culture? How does that contrast with Mary as the recipient of God's favor?

- 4 Discuss the following quotes: “If your life isn’t instagrammable, then Christmas is for you” and “You don’t fall *from* grace, you fall *into* grace.”
- 5 When was the last time you said of yourself, “I am the least likely recipient of God’s favor”?

DIVINE FAVOR: THE RESTORATION

- 6 According to the Bible, how did mankind lose the favor of God?
- 7 How is Christianity different from all other world religions when it comes to restoring the favor of God? Discuss the following quote: “Christianity isn’t a religion, Christianity is the end of religion.”
- 8 How would you explain the gospel to an unbeliever using the analogy of a report card?

DIVINE FAVOR: THE RESPONSE

- 9 How did Mary demonstrate *healthy doubt*? Why is it dishonest to say, “all religions are the same”? Do Christians believe based on “blind faith”?
- 10 How does someone become a Christian? Is it just about saying the right words? How did Mary demonstrate *full surrender*? Complete the following sentence either for yourself or for someone else: “I am a Christian/I want to be a Christian but...”

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?