

## Wanna Get Away? – Luke 1:26-56

Commercials – Have we ever found ourselves in similar situations?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, did when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her!

The angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and said, **“Behold, you will conceive in your womb & bear a son...”** – vs. 31. Excuse me?

- Mary was **“a virgin, betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph...”** vs. 27.  
Do you think the thought crossed her mind - **“Where’s Southwest Airlines?”**

The angel of the Lord said to her, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.”** – vs. 35

- **“How is that supposed to make it any better?”** **“How am I going to convince Joseph... my dad... and everyone else in Nazareth of this?”**

Mary accepts the words of the Angel Gabriel and says, **“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”** – vs 38.

But then vs 38 concludes w/ **“And the angel departed from her.”** Now what?

Insert line – **“Wanna get away?”** Mary did, & that’s exactly what she does!

**“In those days Mary arose & went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, & she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth.”**

Mary was **anxious**, so she went with haste! She was troubled so she found a place of sanctuary. She had some answers but probably more questions, so she went to be with someone who could understand & give her perspective!

When we need to get away, where do we go? What do we do? To whom do we turn? For me it depends on the situation.

For Mary, she went to Judah. She went to her family. She confided in Elizabeth who was experiencing a **similar** situation herself.

What was the outcome? Mary got the perspective she needed! Elizabeth, filled w/ the Holy Spirit, exclaimed to her, **“Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb... And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”**

God provided the answers that were needed for Mary while she spent those three months away in Judah with Elizabeth!

**Sometimes we too need to get away** & remove ourselves from that which is bringing us anxiety & stress, and put ourselves in a place where God can speak to us and give us perspective. What I am not saying...

Notice that Mary wasn’t trying to get away & never return. **She got away to get the perspective she needed to return** to Joseph & carry out God’s plan.

How do we really know that she got the perspective she needed? **Vs. 46-55**

Mary was now ready to return and face all that was still yet ahead of her!

This is where our song this morning comes in – **Silent Night!**

The night of Jesus’ birth had to have been anything but silent!

- The city of Bethlehem was packed! w/ disgruntled & celebratory people.
- A mother giving birth without an epidural or modern pain medicine.
- A baby born in a cave/stable and placed in a manger made of hard wood.
- **There was a light show in the sky with the star & the glory of the Lord!**
- **A Heavenly concert filled the air from the heavenly host.**
- The surprise visit from the shepherds was I’m sure unexpected.
- And what of the chatter from around town from the shepherd’s testimony
- With all the ruckus, I can’t imagine the barn animals stayed quiet either.

What could be silent on this not so silent night? How could one say that all is calm and look on the bright side? **How could one sleep in heavenly peace?**

I don’t know if the lyrics of this song ring true to the way things really happened on the night Jesus was born, but I do believe that these words ring true for how Mary was able to approach this night!

The one detail Luke shares about Mary’s experience on that night was, **“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”** – Lk 2:19

She could do this because of her time spent with Elizabeth in Judah. **God gave her His perspective and her heart, mind & soul were put to ease!**

If our heart, mind & soul would be put to ease this Christmas season, it will be b/c we too do what is necessary to get the proper perspective. What do you need to do, where do you need to go to get yourself ready for Christmas?

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