

## *New Sermon Series: Making Decisions*

12/8/24 “I Believed,” Luke 1:26-38, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** Do I seek God’s blessing or what I can get from the world?

**MAIN IDEA: Live in a way that God will bless you.** How? By doing these three things.

### **I. First, keep His covenants (27)**

**Betrothed:** a legal agreement to marry, much stronger than an “engagement,” as binding as actual marriage. Could only be dissolved by divorce or death. Sexual abstinence was expected by both parties before and after betrothal. Unfaithfulness during this time was considered adultery, punishable by death according to the law God gave the Israelites through Moses (*Fire Bible*)

A. marriage covenant established at creation

**Gen. 2:24, MEV:** Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

1. 1 man & 1 woman united physically & spiritually
2. for life requiring faithfulness to each other
3. not required for everyone to marry
4. required for any wanting marriage-like relationship

B. new covenant in Jesus’ blood

**1Cor 11:25, MEV:** This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

1. salvation through devoted faith in Jesus
2. i.e. confess Him as Lord
3. & live for Him in obedience

**NOTE:** If we fail in the first covenant, the second redeems us.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. Second, be humble (38a)** *I am the servant of the Lord*

A. willing to serve God in any way *He* wishes

B. not placing oneself in a place of judgment

1. “How can this be?” vs. 34... believed promise but wondered how it would happen –*Wiersbe*
2. unlike Zechariah’s “How can I know this?” which showed unbelief...*prove it in a way I’ll accept*

C. recognizing pride... *from 7 Steps to Freedom...*

- a stronger desire to do my will than God's will;
- more dependent upon my strengths and resources than God's;
- too often believing my ideas & opinions are better than others';
- being more concerned about controlling others than developing self-control;
- sometimes considering myself more important than others';
- having a tendency to think that I have no needs;
- finding it difficult to admit that I was wrong;
- having a tendency to be more of a people-pleaser than a God-pleaser;
- being overly concerned about getting the credit I deserve;
- being driven to obtain the recognition that comes from degrees, titles and positions;
- often thinking I am more humble than others

**Transition: Matthew 18:3-4, MEV: 3** Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore whoever humbles himself like this little child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**III. Finally, have childlike faith (38b)** *may it be unto me according to Your word*

A. because God says it, I believe it

B. I trust You for whatever you choose to do

C. I surrender to you and Your will, Your plans

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:** Have I been living to please God or myself & others?

How would God have me respond to this question? What would He have me do about it? Come & talk with Him?