

She said Yes! [Isaiah 40:1-11](#), [Luke 1:26-38](#)

A young woman is at home, dreaming of the day when she will finally marry her fiancé, a man with good prospects: from an excellent family, working in a trade which will always be in demand. Perhaps she is thinking of the huge wedding feast, which would extend over several days and be the talk of the village. Perhaps she is thinking about her own future: starting a family, being a mother and seeing her children follow in the family footsteps.

How far did her dreams take her?

Not to the sight of this strange messenger appearing before her, with news that she was highly favoured by God himself.

She is an intelligent person, and wonders what exactly this visitor is driving at. Was he some kind of fanatic who would kidnap her? A confidence trickster? Why would God himself be looking on her in particular?

The messenger recognises her fear, and tells her not to be afraid, but his message seems to be full of a series of impossibilities. God's favour means that she will have a baby, a son, who she must call Jesus. Furthermore, this Jesus will be a King – forever.

Mary is not naïve. She knows how babies are made. There is no way on this earth that she can be going to have a baby any time soon! She is waiting for her wedding night!

Yet what the messenger says next seems even more extraordinary, even more impossible: that she will become pregnant through the power of the Most High. To show that these impossible things have already started to happen, her older cousin, who had been told she could never have children, is going to be a mother in three months' time.



If these were the words of a confidence trickster, they would not come true. But the messenger says that “no word from God will ever fail.”

It is at this point where some people would have sent this visitor packing. Mary puts her trust in God, and accepts that this visitor comes to bring God's promise to her. Her response is simple: “I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.” All Mary's bonds of duty to her family and to her husband-to-be, those powerful ties of blood and love, are put to one side. She does not call out for any of these people to come and witness this meeting or act as her chaperone.

Mary says, “yes”.

She does not dwell on the apparent illogicality of what this messenger tells her; she does not pause to weigh up the pros and cons of this announcement. She accepts the promise, which will be fulfilled in her.

In Mary's "yes" we see God's great redeeming plan being worked out. She accepts the truth of God's promises, in direct contrast to Eve's decision to take the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, where Eve does not trust the word of God.

We live in a world where people try to curry favour from others, working to earn their approval through their words and actions. Sometimes we can be tempted to think that we have to behave in the same way with God, as if we have to earn his attention and work our way into his good books.

Mary is a reminder that God's favour is not something we earn. We simply have to trust that he loves us. We have to put aside our fears and suspicions and say, like Mary, "yes."

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