20261101 祂的計劃，我們的降服– Ps Bijoy

路加福音 1:26-38

Dr. A.R. Bernard said, “Life is both a threat and a promise.” It is full of promises, but at the same time it is full of challenges. If we only focus on the challenges, we will miss God’s promises. So many people have been contaminated by the lies of this world that they can no longer see what God has promised them. They become pessimistic and live with very little hope, or none at all. We cannot deny the challenges, but we can learn to manage them while we keep our eyes on God’s promises.

A.R. Bernard 博士曾說：「人生既是一個威脅，也是一個應許。」人生充滿應許，但同時也充滿挑戰。如果我們只專注於挑戰，就會錯過神的應許。許多人已經被這個世界的謊言所污染，以至於再也看不見神應許要賜給他們的事物。他們變得悲觀，活在幾乎沒有盼望，甚至完全沒有盼望的光景中。我們不能否認人生中的挑戰，但我們可以學習如何面對和管理這些挑戰，同時持續定睛在神的應許上。

Let’s see how this played out in the life of Mary, in Luke chapter 1. Luke tells us that God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, and her name was Mary. I don’t think it’s a coincidence that Luke recorded her status. Facebook wasn’t invented yet, but her status was clear: engaged. She was taken. She and Joseph had plans, and they had imagined their future together. Then suddenly an angel appears and says, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.” Mary was troubled, and of course she was. How many of us have been visited by an angel? What if it happens to you tonight? You would be scared too, right?

讓我們來看看這件事如何發生在馬利亞的生命中。《路加福音》第1章告訴我們，神差遣天使加百列到一個已經許配給一個名叫約瑟的男子的童女那裡，她的名字叫馬利亞。我不認為路加特別記載她當時的身分是一件巧合。那時候還沒有 Facebook，但她的感情狀態很清楚：已訂婚。 她已經名花有主。她和約瑟已經有了計劃，也曾經一起想像過他們未來的生活。然而，就在這時，天使突然向她顯現，說：「蒙大恩的女子，我問你安，主和你同在了！」馬利亞因這話就很驚慌，這當然是可以理解的。我們當中有多少人曾經被天使造訪過？如果今晚真的有一位天使向你顯現呢？你也會害怕，對吧？

Gabriel saw her fear and said, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.” And listen to how Mary answers: “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” She isn’t saying, “Hallelujah, praise the Lord.” She is confused, trying to put the puzzle

pieces together. She is thinking, “I’m not married yet. What will people say? How will my fiancé react?” That was a real fear, because the law said an engaged woman found unfaithful could be stoned. Her life was at stake.

加百列看見她的害怕，就對她說：「馬利亞，不要怕，你在神面前已經蒙恩了。你要懷孕生子，可以給他起名叫耶穌。」請留意馬利亞是怎樣回答的：「我沒有出嫁，怎麼有這事呢？」她並沒有說：「哈利路亞，讚美主！」她感到困惑，正在努力把這些拼圖一塊一塊拼湊起來。她心裡想：「我還沒有結婚。人們會怎麼說？我的未婚夫會有什麼反應？」那是真實的恐懼，因為按照當時的律法，一個已經許配給人、卻被發現不忠的女子，可能會被石頭打死。她的生命正受到威脅。

So to convince her, Gabriel told her something else that was hard to believe: her relative Elizabeth, who was old and known to be barren, was six months pregnant. Everybody knew Elizabeth could not have children, and yet it was happening. This proved that, as the angel said, “no word from God will ever fail.” And after hearing all this, Mary answered, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”

所以，為了讓她相信，加百列又告訴她一件同樣難以置信的事：她的親戚以利沙伯年紀老邁，素來被認為不能生育，如今竟然已經懷孕六個月了。大家都知道以利沙伯不能生育，然而這件事竟然真的發生了。這證明了天使所說的：「出於神的話，沒有一句不帶能力的。」聽完這一切之後，馬利亞回答說：「我是主的使女，情願照你的話成就在我身上。」

That was surrender. She let go of her rights to follow God’s plan, and it was not a temporary commitment but a lifetime one. It sounds like Jesus in Gethsemane: “Not My will, but Yours be done.” Many people teach that we should surrender first and then we will see the miracle. But I think the miracle is in the surrender. Obedience in surrender is hard, and that is the true miracle. Mary said yes before she was given any detail. As one pastor said, “It’s better not to understand His ways than not to believe His love.”

那就是降服。她放下了自己的權利，選擇跟隨神的計劃，而這並不是一個短暫的委身，而是一生的委身。這讓我們想起耶穌在客西馬尼園所說的：「不要成就我的意思，只要成就你的意思。」許多人教導我們，必須先降服，然後我們才會看見神蹟。但我認為，真正的神蹟就在降服之中。在降服中順服並不容易，而這才是真正的神蹟。馬利亞在神還沒有告訴她所有細節之前，就已經說了「是」。正如一位牧者所說：「不明白祂的道路，總比不相信祂的愛更好。」

Now look at Joseph in Matthew 1. He was faithful to the law, and he did not want Mary exposed to public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her quietly. He loved her, but her surrender to God's plan frightened him. Then an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife." Joseph took her, and in doing so he protected her from accusations and from the consequences that would have come.

現在讓我們來看看《馬太福音》第1章中的約瑟。他是一個遵行律法的人，不願意讓馬利亞被人公開羞辱，因此打算暗暗地把她休了。他愛馬利亞，但馬利亞對神計劃的降服卻讓他感到害怕。後來，有一位天使在夢中向他顯現，說：「不要怕，只管娶過你的妻子馬利亞來。」約瑟就把馬利亞娶過來；藉著這樣的行動，他保護了馬利亞，使她免受指控，也免受原本可能要承受的後果。

So what can we learn from this? Let me give you three things.

那麼，我們可以從這件事學到什麼呢？讓我分享三件事。

First, if it's God's plan, let Him do the hustle.

第一，如果這是神的計劃，就讓祂來成就。

Look at how God led Mary and Joseph. He sent Gabriel to encourage Mary when she was afraid and confused. He told her about Elizabeth. Then He sent the angel into Joseph's dream so he wouldn't leave her. Can you see the hustle? God made sure they knew it was His plan. That matters, because so many people ask, "What is God's plan for my life?" There is a fear of missing out, a worry that we might miss what God has for us.

看看神是如何帶領馬利亞和約瑟的。當馬利亞感到害怕和困惑時，神差遣加百列去鼓勵她；祂又告訴她有關以利沙伯的事。接著，祂又差遣天使在約瑟的夢中向他顯現，使他不要離開馬利亞。你看見神是如何一步一步地成就祂的計劃嗎？神確保他們知道這是祂的計劃。這一點很重要，因為有許多人會問：「神對我生命的計劃是什麼？」我們常常害怕錯過，擔心自己會不會錯過神為我們預備的一切。

But if God has a plan for you, let Him do the hustle. He can use any person, any situation and nothing is impossible for Him. And sometimes it will just be so natural in the routine of life. So, the real question is not "What is the plan?" The real question is whether you are willing to follow it. Are you willing to let go of your own plans? Do you believe His plan is better than yours?

但如果神對你的生命有一個計劃，就讓祂來成就。祂可以使用任何人、任何環境，而且在祂沒有難成的事。有時候，祂甚至會在我們日常生活的平凡節奏中，自然而然地成就祂的計劃。所以，真正的問題不是「神的計劃是什麼？」真正的問題是：你是否願意跟隨祂的計劃？你是否願意放下自己的計劃？你相信祂的計劃比你的計劃更好嗎？

Second, pain and suffering are part of God's plan.

第二，痛苦和受苦也是神計劃的一部分。

I know it's not popular to preach this, because it's easier to preach blessings. But we live in a broken world, and even as believers we are not immune. Some of you are struggling right now with sickness or with relationships, and you ask, "Why, after knowing Jesus, does my life seem to have more struggle?" Look at Mary and Joseph. Jesus' arrival made their lives harder. People asked Mary, "How come you're already pregnant?" And they asked Joseph too, and he would answer, "It wasn't me." "Then who?" "The Holy Spirit." "Whose son is that?" There were cynical people, and who wouldn't be? Some of you know this feeling. When you received Jesus, you were cut off by your family, scolded, or shunned.

我知道，傳講這一點並不受歡迎，因為傳講祝福比較容易。但我們活在一個破碎的世界裡，即使是信徒也不能免於痛苦。有些人現在正面對疾病或人際關係上的掙扎，你可能會問：「為什麼我認識耶穌之後，人生反而好像有更多的掙扎？」看看馬利亞和約瑟。耶穌的降生使他們的生活變得更加艱難。有人問馬利亞：「你怎麼這麼快就懷孕了？」他們也問約瑟，而他只能回答：「不是我。」有人又問：「那是誰的？」他回答：「聖靈。」「那孩子是誰的兒子？」當時有許多人帶著懷疑和譏諷的眼光，這不是很正常嗎？你們當中有些人也知道這種感受。當你接受耶穌之後，你的家人可能與你斷絕關係、責罵你，甚至排斥你。

Tim Keller wrote, "Suffering is the very heart of the Christian faith." It is not only about how Christ died to redeem us, but also about how we live to be like Him. And our suffering has purpose. Look at the chairs you're sitting on. They were not designed to sit idle. If I could interview them and ask, "Are you finding your purpose?" they would say, "This is what I was created for." They carry the lightest and the heaviest of you, and that is how they are fulfilled. Now look at a empty chair and If I ask it, "Is your life fulfilled?" it would say, "Something is missing." It's the chair that carries weight that feels fulfilled. In the same way, many of us want to bear fruit, but fruit adds weight to the branch. The more God uses you, the stronger you become

to carry it. That's why Paul says in Romans 8:18, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

提姆．凱勒曾說：「受苦正是基督信仰的核心。」這不只是關乎基督如何藉著祂的死救贖我們，也關乎我們如何活著，效法祂的樣式。而且，我們的受苦是有目的的。看看你們現在坐著的椅子。它們被造不是為了閒置不用。如果我可以訪問這些椅子，問它們：「你們有活出被造的目的嗎？」它們會回答：「這就是我被造的目的。」它們承受著我們當中最輕的人，也承受著最重的人，而這正是它們發揮作用、完成目的的方式。現在看看一張空著的椅子，如果我問它：「你的生命是否得著滿足？」它會回答：「有些東西不見了。」真正承受重量的椅子，才是在發揮它被造的價值。同樣地，我們當中許多人都渴望結出果子，但果子會增加枝子的重量。神越多使用你，你就越發剛強，能夠承擔祂所託付給你的重量。這就是為什麼保羅在《羅馬書》8:18說：「我想，現在的苦楚若比起將來要顯於我們的榮耀，就不足介意了。」

Third, surrender is the miracle

第三，降服本身就是神蹟。

Mary could have said, "Angel Gab (riel) pleaseee choose someone else. Choose my neighbour. This is too much. I'm engaged already, what would Joseph say?" She could have rejected it, and so could Joseph. The same goes for us. But they chose a selfless life. They left their comfort zone, risked their reputation, and opened the way for Jesus to enter this world.

馬利亞本可以說：「加百列天使，拜託你，請你去找別人吧！找我的鄰居好了。這實在太多了。我已經訂婚了，約瑟會怎麼想呢？」她可以選擇拒絕，而約瑟也同樣可以拒絕。但他們選擇了一條捨己的道路。他們離開自己的舒適圈，冒著名譽受損的風險，並且為耶穌進入這個世界預備了道路。

And look again at verse 38: "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left. He didn't stay to explain. He never said, "Tonight you'll feel something in your stomach, or there will be a huge rainbow and that's the sign." There was no detail at all. God didn't give any detail, because if He had laid it all out, they would have given up. He was only waiting for a sign of surrender, and once Mary gave it, it was "Thank you, goodbye." So, you don't need to know all the details. You only need to know this, God's grace is with you.

再看看第38節：「情願照你的話成就在我身上。」天使就離開她了。他並沒有留下來向她解釋一切。他從來沒有說：「今晚你會感覺肚子裡有些異樣，或者會出現一道巨大的彩虹，那就是神給你的記號。」完全沒有這些細節。神沒有把所有細節都告訴他們，因為如果祂把一切都攤開來讓他們知道，他們可能早就放棄了。祂所等待的，只是一個降服的記號；而當馬利亞說出這句話之後，一切就完成了，彷彿只是「謝謝，再見」。所以，你不需要知道所有的細節。你只需要知道一件事：神的恩典與你同在。

Remember, life is both challenges and promise, both suffering and grace. Mary and Joseph faced real challenges, but grace never left them. It carried them through and made them conquerors. And in the middle of it all, they had a peace and joy they had never felt before, because Jesus was with them, the Source of peace, joy, and life. Jesus in Mary's womb was "Christ, the hope of glory," and Christ in us is the hope of glory.

記住，人生既有挑戰，也有應許；既有受苦，也有恩典。馬利亞和約瑟面對的是真實的挑戰，但神的恩典從未離開他們。恩典帶領他們走過一切，使他們成為得勝者。在這一切事情當中，他們經歷了一種從未有過的平安與喜樂，因為耶穌與他們同在，祂就是平安、喜樂和生命的源頭。馬利亞腹中的耶穌就是「榮耀的盼望」基督，而住在我們裡面的基督，也是榮耀的盼望。

Therefore, I believe the miracle is in the surrender. Obedience in surrender is hard, and that is the True Miracle.

因此，我相信，真正的神蹟就在降服之中。 在降服中順服並不容易，而這正是真正的神蹟。