

12-21-14 Scripture Reading
Message: The Christmas Picture Puzzle

Piece 1 - Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

³⁶ "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

³⁷ "For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Piece 2 - Luke 2:8-19

⁸ And in the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² "And this *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

¹⁵ And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Piece 3 - Luke 2:41-51

⁴¹ And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

⁴² And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;

⁴³ and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it,

⁴⁴ but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

⁴⁵ And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him.

⁴⁶ And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

⁴⁸ And when they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You."

⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?"

⁵⁰ And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

⁵¹ And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart.

Piece 4 - John 19:19-30

¹⁹ And Pilate wrote an inscription also, and put it on the cross. And it was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

²⁰ Therefore this inscription many of the Jews read, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, *and* in Greek.

²¹ And so the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews. '"

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.

²⁴ They said therefore to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be"; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS. "

²⁵ Therefore the soldiers did these things. But there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "**Woman, behold, your son!**"

²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "**Behold, your mother!**" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "**I am thirsty.**"

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon *a branch* of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.