



### **Scripture nugget – The Incarnation that changed eternal destiny of the world**

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus (Luke 1:26-31).*

**Almighty God made His request known.** When Adam and Eve fell from grace through disobedience, God was quick to remedy this tragedy. God cursed the diabolical serpent that tempted our first parents. God said: *I will put enmity between you and the Woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at Their heel (Genesis 3:15).* Thus, God announced that the arch enemies of Satan would be Jesus and Mary. Mary's unique role in salvation history was enshrined in Scripture from the beginning. When the time came for God to present His request to Mary, a young poor girl living in Nazareth, to be the Mother of the Saviour, the Archangel Gabriel was commissioned to approach our Blessed Mother Mary. The request was duly made and all of heaven held their breaths awaiting the answer that would eternally change the destiny of humanity. God patiently awaited the consent of Mary for her unique role in the salvation of the world.

**The Maiden answered in the affirmative and the world was changed forever.** Mary was worried at the unusual greeting of the angel. However, when the angel explained that the Son to be born of her would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, and would be the Son of the Most High God, Mary uttered her "yes", trusting in God absolutely, despite knowing that an unwed mother in those times could be stoned to death. God also trusted Mary and Joseph absolutely and allowed His only begotten Son to assume lowly human flesh and to be vulnerable as a baby under their care. Sacrificial love and absolute trust goes together. In His great generosity, God accepted, for the atonement of our disobedience, the obedience of His Son through His sufferings in the flesh (cf. Hebrews 5:8). Through His sufferings in the flesh, Christ would offer to the Heavenly Father a divine exchange for our benefit. Through His rejection from His birth till His death on the Cross, Christ gained acceptance of us by the Heavenly Father. By His obedience to Mary and Joseph, and the will of the Father, Christ canceled out our disobedience and rebellion. Canceling out the eternal condemnation that we deserve, Christ gained for us indestructible hope and a share of His divine glory and Kingdom. Instead of reprobates destined for eternal damnation, we are offered the opportunity to become sons and daughters of God! May all that breathe praise the Lord!

**Conversation with Jesus.** Precious Lord, in spirit I come before Your manger in Bethlehem on the night You were born. Though I have no gold, frankincense or myrrh, I bring my love in my poor heart. Let my heart, filled with ardent love for You and contrite with sorrow for my sins, be Your manger. You were cold in the winter air in the stable, and I offer You my love as a blanket for Your infant body. The world has no time for You. I remove myself from the hustle and bustle of this world and join Mary and Joseph, the angels and the simple shepherds in adoring, praising and loving You. May my heart always be a warm manger for Infant Jesus in reparation for the rejection You received at birth. Mary, Mother of Infant Jesus, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.