



Pastor Scott Archer 12.09.2018*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Romance Interrupted

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Series: Advent 2018 – Advent Interruptions

Central Passages

Luke 1:36–38 (ESV) — **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:24–25 (ESV) — **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, **he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:** he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Central Thought: The urgency of a Divine interruption may cost us our reputation and takes precedence over even the most sacred life events.

- ❖ God is the prime initiator and the great interrupter in the history of salvation.
 - God created Adam and Eve. (Genesis 1)
 - God commanded Noah to build an ark. (Genesis 5)
 - God called Abraham and told him to move. (Genesis 12)
 - God chose David to be king. (1 Samuel 16)

Romans 5:8 (ESV) — **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- ❖ God interrupted Mary’s life, and she was willing to risk her reputation and her very livelihood to obey.
- ❖ God interrupted Joseph’s life, and he was willing to take on a great and grave responsibility to obey.

Luke 9:23–25 (ESV) — **23** And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. **25** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

- ❖ The call and cause of Christ is now the great interruption of our age...
 - Are we willing to hear and follow for the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors?

Luke 9:57–62 (ESV) — **57** As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” **58** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” **59** To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **60** And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” **61** Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”