

ADVENTus – Week 4: LOVE

December 21, 2025

Luke 1:26–57

With God All Things Are Possible

How the Wonder of God's Love Changes Us

I. INTRO: The Wonder of His Love

*"He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love."*

What happens when we actually live in the wonder of God's love?

- How does it:
 1. Recalibrate our posture toward God?
 2. Reorient our hearts toward others?
 3. Reshape our lives for God's Kingdom and His glory?

II. Understanding Love Correctly

- A. Confusing Love
 1. English uses **one word** for many meanings:
- B. Greek Words for Love
 1. **Storgē** – Family affection
 2. **Phileō** – Friendship love (Philadelphia = "brotherly love")
 3. **Eros** – Romantic love (later personified as Cupid)
- C. A Greater Love
 1. You were created for **a greater love**
 2. A love that:
 - i. Isn't rooted in emotion
 - ii. Loves when it's not returned
 - iii. Loves when it's undeserved
 - iv. Goes with you wherever you go

Agapē Love

- God's immeasurable, self-giving, covenantal love
- Expressed in **John 3:16**
- Love that **initiates**, **sacrifices**, and **never fails**

III. The Promise of God's Love (Luke 1:26–33)

A. God's Promises to Mary

Gabriel declares **seven promises** that *will* come to pass:

1. You will conceive
2. You will bear a son
3. You will name Him Jesus

4. He will be great
5. He will be called Son of the Most High
6. He will receive David's throne
7. His Kingdom will never end

God's love always comes with promises — and God keeps every one of them.

IV. Nothing Will Be Impossible with God (Luke 1:34–37)

- Mary asks an honest question:
"How will this be?"

God responds with **more promises**:

1. The Holy Spirit will come upon you
2. The power of the Most High will overshadow you
3. The child will be holy—the Son of God

*"For nothing will be impossible with God."
(No word from God will ever fail.)*

V. Mary's Response to God's Love

- A. Who Mary Was
 1. Unwed
 2. From a nowhere town
 3. Facing an inconceivable calling
- B. Her Possible Responses
 1. I'm not equipped
 2. I'm too broken
 3. I didn't choose this
 4. What will people say?
 5. Joseph will reject me
- C. Her Actual Response (Luke 1:38)

"I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

That response flows from **identity**, not ability.

VI. "Highly Favored" — Understanding Grace

- A. The Identity Statement

Gabriel's first words:

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you."

1. Mary wasn't favored because she was perfect
2. She was favored because **God chose to love her**

Mary was a sinner—just like us.

Grace is **unearned favor**, freely given.

- B. The Same Grace for Us

1. "Highly favored" (xaritóō) appears again in **Ephesians 1**

2. God bestows grace freely on the undeserving
3. Mary's story becomes *our* story in Christ

VII. The Magnificat: Two Ways to Live (Luke 1:46–56)

- A. Life Outside the Gospel
 1. The **Proud** – scattered
 2. The **Mighty** – brought low
 3. The **Rich** – sent away empty
- B. Life Inside the Gospel
 1. The **Hopeful** – sustained by mercy
 2. The **Humble** – lifted up
 3. The **Hungry** – filled with good things

God's grace produces a people who are **hopeful, humble, and hungry**.

VIII. Living in the Wonder of His Love

- A. Gospel-Hopeful People (Galatians 5:4–6)
 1. Our hope is not a performance—but a promise
 2. Faith expresses itself through love
- B. Gospel-Humble People (Romans 5:6–8)
 1. Christ died for us while we were still sinners
 2. As **C.S. Lewis** said:
"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."
- C. Gospel-Hungry People (Colossians 3:12–17)
 1. Chosen
 2. Holy
 3. Beloved
 4. Growing daily into Christlikeness

Where do you need to remember today that **no word from God will ever fail**?

1. Where does God need to recalibrate your posture toward Him?
2. Reorient your heart toward others?
3. Reshape your life for His Kingdom and His glory?