

# More Than...

*A Christmas Series with rcc*

## Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign

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More Than...

More Than...

A Good Story

*A Christmas Series with rcc*

# The Messenger

More Than...

# Fairy Tale Messengers

- Who brings momentous news out of the blue

More Than...

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- Who brings momentous news out of the blue
  - The Ghost of Jacob Marley

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- Who brings momentous news out of the blue
  - The Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - A sorceress disguised as an old woman

More Than...



# Fairy Tale Messengers

- Who brings momentous news out of the blue
  - The Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - A sorceress disguised as an old woman
  - The owls of Hogwarts

More Than...

# More Likely Messengers

- Who could have brought momentous news out of the blue
  - A prophet

More Than...

# More Likely Messengers

- Who could have brought momentous news out of the blue
  - A prophet
  - Magi from the east

More Than...

# More Likely Messengers

- Who could have brought momentous news out of the blue
  - A prophet
  - Magi from the east
  - Mute Zechariah

More Than...

# The Actual Messenger

- Who brings momentous news out of the blue
  - An angel, Gabriel
  - Honor befitting the message
  - Luke 1:19 – stands in the presence of God, sent by God

More Than...

## Luke 1:26-38

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**More Than...**

# The Baby

More Than...

## Luke 1:26-38

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore **the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**

<sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> 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.

More Than...



# Children of the Gods (Demigods)

- In the stories we know:
  - Hercules (Zeus and Alcmene)

More Than...

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More Than...

# Children of the Gods (Demigods)

- In the stories we know:
  - Hercules (Zeus and Alcmene)
  - Percy Jackson (Poseidon and Sally Jackson)
  - Wonder Woman (Zeus and Hippolyta)

More Than...

# The Actual Son of God

- 100% God – ( not 50/50! )

More Than...

## John 1:1-3,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made...

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% God
- The God of All Creation

More Than...

## Colossians 1:15-29

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together... <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell...

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% God
- The God of All Creation
- Holy

More Than...



## Luke 1:26-38

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# Holy

- It is the qualifier most often attached to God – Holy, holy, holy...
- God alone is perfect, spotless, without blemish – separate from all else in creation – to be revered, to be worshipped
- And people and things are called Holy that are dedicated to the God who is Holy.

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% God

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% God
- **100% Human**

More Than...

## Luke 4:20-22

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?”

More Than...

## Matthew 8:24-27

<sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep...

Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% Human
  - Not an act
  - Not a disguise
  - “In every respect, tempted as we are” (Heb. 4:15)

More Than...

# The Son of God

- 100% God
- 100% Human
- **This is unheard of!**

**More Than...**



# The Kingdom

More Than...

## Luke 1:26-38

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More Than...

# A Long-Awaited King

More Than...

## 2 Samuel 7:12-13

<sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

More Than...

# A Long-Awaited King

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# A Long-Awaited King

- David's kingdom didn't even last two generations
- His kingdom split north and south in about 1000 BC – shortly after Solomon's reign (David's son)
- The north was taken into exile in around 700 BC, south around 600 BC

More Than...

# A Long-Awaited King

- Allowed to return to the land around 450 BC
- Currently being governed by Rome
- They've been waiting - a thousand years!

More Than...



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More Than...

**More than a Good Story...**

**More Than...**

# More than a Good Story...

- The God of the Universe has made Himself known

More Than...

# More than a Good Story...

- The God of the Universe has made Himself known through...
  - An angel
  - A poor, young girl
  - Two miraculous pregnancies

More Than...

# More than a Good Story...

- The God of the Universe has made Himself known through...
  - A baby
  - The kind of man that baby will be
  - And, all that He will do

More Than...

# More than a Good Story...

- The God of the Universe has made Himself known through...
  - A 1,000 year old promise
  - His faithfulness to that promise
  - And, new promises

More Than...

# What Does This Mean To Us

- We are loved more than we can fully appreciate

More Than...

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- We are loved more than we can fully appreciate
- Nothing is impossible for God

More Than...



# What Does This Mean To Us

- We are loved more than we can fully appreciate
- Nothing is impossible for God
- We are meant to respond!

More Than...

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More Than...

# How Do We Respond?

- We pursue the God who wants to be known

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More Than...

# How Do We Respond?

- We pursue the God who wants to be known
- We trust His love and faithfulness in stretching situations
- We seek out the encouragement of others who've experienced Him
- We share the 'More Than' with others

**More Than...**