**Intro:** Luke 1:26-1:28

 Last week I preached about “Christmas in the Real World.” There are no “perfect” Christmases, except on the Hallmark channel.

Joseph and Mary’s plans were greatly altered by God! HOW did Mary do it?

**I. Mary approached her unexpected turn with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** V 28

Before we can approach life’s unexpected turns the right way – with grace – we must be highly favored! God’s grace.

If you are saved, his grace is sufficient for any interruption in our plans. 2 Cor 12:7-10; 1 Cor 15:10

**II. Mary approached her unexpected turn with ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** V 34

Mary knew **what** would happen, but she did not know **how** it would happen (her question was actually an expression of faith. IE, “I know this is going to happen, because You said it would, but how is that possible, given the present circumstances?”)

Nothing is impossible for God! (DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT?)

**III. Mary approached her unexpected turn with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** V 38

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not break!

Mary doesn’t complain or cringe at the shame a premarital pregnancy could bring her. **Why should she complain at being given the opportunity to be *blessed among women*?** (Remember, we need to see things from God’s perspective, not man’s!)

 When life turns unexpectedly, isn’t our first move to complain, criticize, and cringe (not the approach that Mary showed.)

Jesus said it this way: "Thy will be done."

†††

**Conc:**

Mary showed how a good believer reacts to the unexpected.

Life’s unexpected curves do not have to be catastrophic to the Christian.

How will WE handle the unexpected when it happens?

Ans: Favor; Faith; Flexibility.

**Next Week: “Why God Became a Man”**