

Highly Favored

February 14, 2016

Luke 1:26-38

Favor is the Lord providing access to places, people and resources that wouldn't have otherwise been available to us. To fully walk in it, we have to understand WHY we are favored.

FAVOR – Luke 1

Favored (verse 28) – To grace, highly honor

Favor (verse 30) – You are graciously accepted

FAVOR is...*“The attraction of God to you that releases an influence through you so that every resource you need materializes in order to accomplish the assignment God gave you.”* --Lance Wallnau

The purpose of FAVOR is to open a DOOR of access for you.

- Favor paves the way for you to be promoted in the presence of rulers—Joseph, David, Daniel
- Favor is the Lord working in you and through you to bring breakthrough in a moment of need—Joseph led Egypt through 7 years of abundance and prepared the nation for 7 years of famine—a nation survived a near catastrophic famine because of God's favor on Joseph.
- Favor is a weapon to take territory and a shield to protect from backlash.
- Favor kept David from having his life ended by Saul, a former boss.
- Daniel risked his life in a lion's den for his beliefs—favor helped deliver him.

Mary wasn't favored because she was going to birth the Messiah; she was considered favored before the pronouncement.

- Verse 30 (AMP) – *And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.”*
- She was favored because God accepted her, He was with her and He was providing what she needed to accomplish His will.
- From this place of acceptance she was able to birth Jesus and a whole new era.

We Are Accepted

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT) – *“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”*

WE ARE CHOSEN – He chose us and predestined us to be adopted as His sons.

- We were not lovely or worthy, but were children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).
- He saw our value and worth (as we truly are) and adopted us into His family.
- John 15:16 – We did not choose Him, but He chose us!
- We are welcomed into a place that we weren’t born into, where we didn’t belong and didn’t have inheritance rights.
- 1 John 3:1-2 – *“Behold what manner of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.”*
- We were children of corruption, disobedience and ingratitude and He wanted us anyways—that’s why John says, “Behold”!
- We can’t earn sonship, we can’t buy it—it’s because of His amazing love.

He is With Us

If our concept of favor is limited to VIP passes and open doors, when opposition arises that contradicts what God has spoken, we will assume we are unfavored, unloved and have been abandoned.

MARY’S JOURNEY TO FULFILLMENT

1. Gabriel prophesied over Mary.
 - She must have been humbled, possibly overwhelmed and filled with anticipation.
2. Mary almost loses her fiancé (Matthew 1).
 - Matthew 1:18 – *“...she was found to be with child”* when she returned from her 3 months with Elizabeth—imagine the shock and responses.
 - Joseph contemplated divorcing her, but instead he took her and claimed her as his own wife despite everyone’s suspicions toward her—imagine what this Christ-like act did to minister to Mary.
 - They surely endured judgment and scorn as they began this adventure.
 - Joseph covered Mary in her shame and judgment—such a picture of Jesus.
3. They had to leave their hometown for the census.

4. They flee for Jesus' safety.
 - Matthew 2 – An angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and warned them to go to Egypt because Herod wanted to kill Jesus
 - They return to Israel by the prompting of an angel. When they realize that Herod's son is reigning, an angel appears to Joseph and tells him to go to Nazareth.

Verse 28 – *“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

- The first thing he says after announcing her favor is that the Almighty God is with her.
- *With* – implies companionship, fellowship; in the midst of; to accompany
- There was a lot he could have said in between *“Greetings, you who are highly favored!”* and *“The Lord is with you.”*—your fiancé will consider divorcing you, friends will judge you, you will need to leave your home and family, there will be attempts to murder your son, you will flee for your lives a couple of times...
- Favor isn't about walking in an easy place—it gives us the ability to endure until fulfillment because we know that God is with us!
- It's about Him pouring out His resources on us to accomplish what He's called us to.

Opposition comes to those who do great things...His favor and presence will see us through and strengthen us.

- Favor attracts jealousy and evil—Joseph, David and Daniel, but they knew God was with them and were called/chosen so they didn't get off track even when their lives were in jeopardy.
- While we wait for fulfillment of words and promises, opposition can tempt us to give up.
- We have to remind ourselves that God chose US and He is with us!

Philippians 1:6 (AMP) – *“And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.”*

“How will this be?”

Luke 1:35 – *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”*

- His response was not “because you are highly favored”, but because *“the Most High will overshadow you.”*
- You live accepted by letting Him overshadow you—your thoughts, your past, doubt, lies, etc.