

YOUTH ARISE

ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

NEW TESTAMENT



GAVIN SIMPSON

INK AND PURPOSE STUDIOS



Story 2

The Annunciation to Mary*Based on Luke 1*

In the little town of Nazareth lived a young woman named Mary. She was probably only a teenager. She was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph, a good and honorable man from the family line of King David. Mary was an ordinary girl, with an ordinary life, in a small and unimportant town.

Then God sent the angel Gabriel to her.

The angel appeared to Mary and greeted her with words that must have startled her. “Greetings to you, Mary, so highly favored! The Lord is at your side.”

Mary was deeply troubled and confused. What could this greeting mean? Why would an angel come to her?

“Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel said. “God is delighted with you. You are going to have a baby boy, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great — the whole world will call Him the Son of the Most High. God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He will reign forever — a kingdom that will never end.”

It was the most astonishing news any person had ever received. This young girl from Nazareth was going to be the mother of the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God Himself. The King whose kingdom would never end. Everything the prophets had promised for centuries was about to come true, through her.

But Mary had a practical question. “How can this be,” she asked, “since I am not yet married?”

The angel explained the great mystery. “The Holy Spirit will rest on you, and the power of God Most High will cover you like a shadow. So the holy child you will bear will be called God’s own Son.”

This baby would not have an earthly father. He would be conceived by the power of God’s own Spirit. He would be fully God and fully man, the most amazing person who ever lived.

Then the angel gave Mary a sign. “Think of your relative Elizabeth. Even in her old age, she is expecting a son. People said she could never have children — yet she is already in her sixth month. Nothing God says can ever fail.”

Nothing God says can ever fail. With God, nothing is impossible.

Now Mary had a choice. This news would change her whole life. People might not understand. There would be whispers, shame, questions. It would be hard. But Mary’s answer is one of the most beautiful in the whole Bible.

“I belong to the Lord — I am His servant,” Mary said. “Let it all happen to me, just as you have said.”

She did not fully understand. But she trusted God. She gave herself completely into His hands, whatever it would cost. She said yes to God.

Then the angel left her.

A teenage girl, in a tiny town, had just agreed to carry the Savior of the world.

It is a beautiful picture of how God works. He chooses the humble and the ordinary. He looks for hearts that will trust Him and say yes.

Mary said yes.

And the world was about to change forever.



Story 13

The Wedding at Cana

Based on John 2

Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples were invited to a wedding in a town called Cana. In those days, a wedding was a huge celebration that could last for days, with feasting and joy for the whole community.

But partway through, a problem came up — an embarrassing one. The wine ran out.

In that culture, running out of wine at a wedding was a shameful thing for the host family. It would humiliate them in front of all their guests and neighbors. The celebration was about to be ruined.

Mary noticed the problem, and she came to Jesus. “They have no more wine,” she said.

She did not tell Jesus exactly what to do. She just brought the need to Him and trusted Him. Then she turned to the servants and gave them simple, wise advice. “Do whatever He tells you,” she said.

Do whatever He tells you. That is good advice for anyone, in any situation.

Nearby stood six large stone water jars, the kind used for ceremonial washing. Each one could hold twenty or thirty gallons.

“Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told the servants.

So they filled them to the brim — all six, completely full of plain water.

Then Jesus said, “Now dip some out and carry it to the man in charge of the feast.”

The servants obeyed. And when the man in charge of the feast tasted it, the water had become wine. Not just any wine — the finest wine of the whole feast.

The man in charge of the feast did not know where it had come from, but the servants knew. He was so impressed that he called the bridegroom over. “Every host brings out the finest wine first,” he said, “then serves the ordinary wine once the guests have had their fill. But you kept the best wine for last!”

Jesus had taken ordinary water and turned it into the best wine anyone had ever tasted. The celebration was saved, and the host family was spared their shame.

This was the very first miracle Jesus performed. And it is full of meaning.

First, it shows that Jesus cares about our everyday lives and our ordinary joys. He did not just come for the big, serious moments. He came to a happy wedding, and He cared enough to keep the celebration going. He cares about the small things that matter to us.

Second, it shows His incredible power and generosity. He did not make just enough wine — He made gallons and gallons of the very best. That is how God gives. Not stingily, but abundantly, more than enough.

And it points to something deeper. Jesus came to bring true and lasting joy, far better than anything the world can offer. The best is always saved for last with Him.

The Bible says this was the first of His signs, the moment His glory began to shine through. And when His disciples saw it, they put their trust in Him.

It all began at a wedding, with six jars of water, and a Savior who turns the ordinary into something wonderful.



Story 20

Jairus's Daughter and the Woman Who Touched Jesus

Based on Mark 5

A large crowd pressed around Jesus. A man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, pushed through and fell at Jesus' feet, desperate.

"My little girl is dying," Jairus begged. "Please come and place Your hands on her. Then she will get well and live."

She was twelve years old, his only daughter, and she was slipping away. So Jesus went with him, and the crowd followed, packed in tight all around.

In that crowd was a woman with a secret, painful problem. For twelve years — the same number of years Jairus's daughter had been alive — she had suffered from constant bleeding. She had spent all her money on doctors, but no one could cure her. She had only gotten worse. And her condition made her an outcast, unable to be part of normal life.

She had heard about Jesus. And she thought, "If I can only brush His clothes with my hand, I will be well again." So she came up behind Him in the crowd and reached out and touched the edge of His cloak.

Immediately, her bleeding stopped. She felt in her body that she was healed. After twelve years of suffering, she was whole again, in an instant.

But Jesus stopped. "Who touched My clothes?" He asked.

The disciples were confused. "Look at this crowd," they said. "People are pressing against You everywhere. How can You ask who touched You?"

But Jesus knew that power had gone out from Him. He kept looking around. And the woman, trembling with fear, came and fell at His feet and told Him the whole truth.

Jesus did not scold her. He looked at her with love and called her by the tenderest name.

"Daughter," He said, "your faith has made you whole. Go in peace. Your suffering is over for good."

While Jesus was still speaking, messengers arrived from Jairus's house with crushing news. "Your daughter has died," they told Jairus. "There is no reason to trouble the Teacher now."

The little girl had died. It was too late. Or so it seemed.

But Jesus turned to Jairus and said, "Do not be afraid. Keep on trusting Me."

When they reached the house, people were already weeping and wailing in grief. "Why all the noise and weeping?" Jesus asked. "The little girl is not dead. She is only sleeping." The people laughed at Him, sure she was gone.

Jesus put them all outside. Then He took the girl's father and mother and went in to where the child lay.

He took her by the hand and said gently, "Little girl, get up."

And immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around. She was alive. Her parents were completely overwhelmed with amazement and joy.

Jesus told them to give her something to eat, caring even for that small detail.

Two daughters, both healed. A sick woman who had suffered twelve years. A little girl who had died at twelve years old. Both restored by the power and tenderness of Jesus.

Jesus has power over sickness and even over death. And He treats every person — the outcast woman, the dying child — with the same gentle love.

To Him, you are not just a face in the crowd. You are His beloved child.



Story 21

The Centurion's Faith

Based on Matthew 8

When Jesus entered the town of Capernaum, a Roman centurion came to Him with an urgent request.

A centurion was a Roman army officer who commanded about a hundred soldiers. He was a Gentile, a foreigner, part of the army that occupied the land. Most Jews would have nothing to do with such a man. But this centurion was different. He cared about his people, and he even cared deeply about his servant.

"Lord," the centurion said, "my servant is lying at home. He cannot move, and his pain is terrible."

Jesus answered right away. "Shall I come and heal him?"

But then the centurion said something that amazed Jesus.

"Lord," he said, "I am not worthy to have You step inside my house. Just speak the word from where You stand, and my servant will get well."

The centurion did not think he needed Jesus to physically come to his house. He believed that Jesus could simply speak, from right where He was standing, and the healing would happen. He understood that Jesus had that kind of authority.

And he explained why he understood it so well, using his own job.

"I take orders myself, and I have soldiers who take orders from me," he said. "If I tell one man, 'Go,' he goes. If I tell another, 'Come,' he comes. If I tell my servant, 'Do this,' it gets done."

The centurion understood authority. In the army, when a commander gave an order, it was carried out instantly, even if the commander was far away. And he realized that Jesus had authority

over sickness in the very same way. Jesus could just give the command, and sickness would obey, like a soldier obeying an order.

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. The Bible says Jesus marveled. And He turned to the crowd following Him and said something stunning.

"Truly I tell you," Jesus said, "nowhere in all Israel have I found faith as great as this."

Think about that. A Roman soldier, a foreigner, an outsider — and Jesus said his faith was greater than anyone's in all of Israel. The man everyone would have looked down on had the strongest faith Jesus had seen.

Jesus added that one day people would come from all over the world — from east and west, from every nation — to take their place in God's kingdom. The good news was never meant for just one people. It was for everyone who would have faith, no matter where they came from.

Then Jesus turned to the centurion. "Go home," He said. "It is done, just the way you believed it would be."

And at that very moment, miles away, the servant was healed. Jesus had not even gone to the house. He simply spoke the word, and the sickness obeyed.

This story teaches us about real faith. The centurion took Jesus at His word. He did not need to see or understand everything. He simply trusted that what Jesus said, Jesus could do.

That is the kind of faith that amazes Jesus.

Not faith that needs proof, but faith that takes Him at His word.

Just say the word, Lord. That is enough.



Story 29

The Good Samaritan

Based on Luke 10

One day a man who was an expert in the law tried to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what do I have to do to inherit the life that never ends?”

Jesus turned the question back to him. “What is written in the law?”

The man answered well. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.”

“That is the right answer,” Jesus said. “Do that, and you will live.”

But the man wanted to justify himself, so he asked, “And who is my neighbor?” He was hoping to limit who he had to love.

So Jesus answered with one of His most famous stories.

A man was traveling down the lonely road from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was a dangerous road. Suddenly, robbers attacked him. They beat him, stripped off his clothes, took everything he had, and left him half dead by the side of the road.

Soon a priest came down that road. He saw the wounded man lying there. But he crossed to the other side and passed by without stopping. This was a religious leader, a man who served in the temple. And he did nothing.

Then a Levite, another religious worker, came along. He too saw the suffering man. And he too crossed to the other side and walked on by. Two religious men, who knew all about loving your neighbor, walked right past a dying man.

Then a third traveler came along — a Samaritan.

Remember, the Jews and the Samaritans hated each other. The wounded man was likely a Jew. So the Samaritan would have had every excuse to walk by. This was an enemy lying in the road.

But when the Samaritan saw him, he took pity on him. His heart was moved with compassion. And he stopped.

He went to the injured man and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine to help them heal. Then he lifted the man onto his own donkey, walking beside him, and brought him to an inn, where he took care of him through the night.

The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper money. “Look after him,” he said. “And if it costs more, I will repay you when I return.” He paid out of his own pocket to care for a stranger, an enemy.

Then Jesus turned to the law expert. “Think of those three travelers,” He said. “Which one treated the wounded man as a true neighbor?”

The man could not even bring himself to say the word “Samaritan.” He just said, “The one who was merciful to him.”

“Go,” Jesus said, “and do likewise.”

This story turned everything upside down. The “good religious people” failed the test. The despised outsider was the hero. And Jesus made it clear what really matters to God.

A neighbor is not just the person who lives next door, or the people who are like us. A neighbor is anyone who needs our help — even a stranger, even an enemy. And real love is not just feeling sorry for people. It is stopping, getting involved, and doing something, even when it costs us.

So the question is not “Who is my neighbor?”

The question is “Will I be a neighbor to whoever needs me?”

Go, Jesus says, and love like the Samaritan.