

SERMON  
OUTLINE

IMPOSSIBLE GRACE

LUKE 1:30-38    I    REV. LITO VILLORIA

Christmas confronts us with a grace that human reason cannot explain and human effort cannot produce. In Luke 1:30–38, God advances His redemptive plan through what is humanly impossible—a virgin conception, an eternal kingdom, and a salvation initiated entirely by God. The passage teaches that when grace is truly from God, it always begins where human ability ends.

Mary’s encounter with the angel began with reassurance rather than rebuke. Though she was troubled and anxious, the angel called her to stop fearing and announced that she had found favor with God. This favor was neither earned nor requested; it was freely bestowed by God’s gracious initiative. Grace, in this moment, was God choosing to work through an ordinary young woman to accomplish an extraordinary plan. What made this grace impossible was that it was given before Mary did anything at all—before obedience, before understanding, before capability—

showing that salvation began not with human readiness but with divine choice (Luke 1:30–31).

The announcement then turned to the identity and mission of the coming child. Mary was told that her son would be great, would be called the Son of the Most High, would receive the throne of David, and would reign forever. These promises drew from God’s covenant with David and revealed that this birth was not merely personal, but redemptive and kingly in scope. The promise of an everlasting throne exposed another impossibility: no human kingdom endured forever. Yet God declared a reign that would never end, revealing that grace did not merely forgive—it established what humanity could never sustain (Luke 1:32–33).

Yet Mary, fully aware of her circumstances, asked how such a promise could be fulfilled since she had not known a man. Her question was not one of doubt, but of honest

wonder, and it invited divine clarification rather than judgment. Mary’s question highlighted the impossibility of the promise—she understood biology, she knew her situation, and she recognized that this could not happen by human means. The angel’s answer removed all uncertainty: this work belonged entirely to God. The confirmation through Elizabeth’s pregnancy led to the climactic declaration that nothing was impossible with God. Grace reached its fullest expression when Mary responded not by solving the problem, but by surrendering to the God who did the impossible (Luke 1:34–38).

In this sermon, we are challenged to trust God’s impossible grace—to believe that when God speaks, no limitation can stop His purposes and no circumstance can cancel His promises. Like Mary, we are called to surrender not because the situation is manageable, but because the God who acts is faithful and all-powerful.✱

IMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

REV. LITO VILLORIA

PARSON  
TO PERSON

As we come to the last Sunday before Christmas, our hearts are drawn once again to the central truth of this season—**God is with us**. In the midst of a busy December filled with gatherings, deadlines, travel, and preparations, Christmas invites us to slow down and remember that the greatest gift we receive is not something wrapped and placed under a tree, but the gift of **God’s presence** through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This Christmas season, our church family is journeying together through a short but meaningful mini-sermon series entitled **“Immanuel: God With Us.”** Anchored in Matthew 1:23, this series reminds us that Christmas is not merely a story from the past, but a living truth for the present. The eternal God stepped into our world—not distant or detached, but near, personal, and faithful. In Christ, God entered our brokenness to save us, restore our joy, draw out our praise, and secure our future under His sovereign rule.

humanity. Immanuel came by grace—accomplishing what we could never achieve by our own strength. Christmas begins with a grace that breaks through impossibility and invites us to trust God fully.

On **Christmas Eve, December 24**, we will gather again at **4PM** for **“Incomparable Joy”** from Luke 15:1–10. Through the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, Jesus reveals the heart of God—a God who seeks the lost and rejoices when they are found. This makes Christmas an especially meaningful time to **invite our pre-believing family members and friends** to join us in worship. Many are more open during this season to hear the good news, and a simple invitation could be the doorway God uses to draw them closer to Himself.

As we approach the close of the year on **December 28**, our Year-End Sunday message will be **“Inexpressible Praise”** from Psalm 118. This psalm calls God’s people to give thanks for His steadfast love that endures forever. As we look back on the year, we are reminded that the Lord has been our Helper, our Refuge, our Strength, and our Victory. Even through trials, transitions, and uncertainties, His faithfulness has sustained us. Ending the year with praise realigns our hearts toward gratitude and confident trust in who God is.

Then, as we begin the New Year on January 4, we will anchor ourselves in **“Immovable Sovereignty”** from Isaiah 66:1–2. While plans change and seasons shift, God’s throne remains unshaken. This message calls us to recognize His sovereignty, surrender humbly to His will, and respond reverently to His Word. As we move from our **Year of Prayer (2025)** into a **Year of Preparation (2026)**, we do so with assurance that Immanuel goes before us, rules over us, and remains with us.

As you prepare for Christmas celebrations in your homes and gatherings with loved ones, our prayer is that you would experience the nearness of God in a fresh and personal way. May Christ’s grace meet you where you are. May His joy strengthen your heart. May thanksgiving rise naturally as you remember His faithfulness. And may His sovereign peace anchor you as you look ahead with hope and confidence.

From **Linda and me**, we wish you and your family a **Merry Christmas**. May the truth of **Immanuel—God With Us** fill your homes with peace, your hearts with joy, and your lives with confident hope. As you celebrate this season, may you be reminded that God is near—faithful in every circumstance and present in every moment. We look forward to worshiping with you, celebrating Christ together, and walking forward as a church family under His gracious and unfailing presence in the year ahead. ✱

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