

The World is About to Turn
Luke 1:26-38
Luke 1:46-55
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I wonder about a 14 year old - a girl. A 14 year old girl from a family with little means, and not much more.

I wonder about a 14 year old girl, who has been asked, invited and maybe even dared into changing her life and the world's. I wonder about a 14 year old girl who is asked to relinquish her reputation, alter her sense of self and embody a purpose, nourish a plan, that it will take years for anyone to ever understand.

I wonder about a 14 year old girl, who dares to say yes, accepts the gossip, the looks and the stares, to be a part of something that will change how people live and move and have their being.

Can you imagine, the fierce courage, the vulnerable stand to say, "Here I am." Can you imagine doing this—your 14 year old self? Can you imagine raising the daughter who would embrace this call? And say of her own will and volition, "Let it be to me according to your word."

You know the story of Mary of Nazareth, but let's think about it again. A messenger from God comes and asks a teenage girl to give birth to the Son of God. She, with an extraordinary amount of courage, says, "Yes." She gives consent. Could she have known all the pain that would come at some point, maybe yes, maybe no—but this is what we know.

This young girl, who in a moment has become a woman, says 'yes' to the lord, "Let it be with me according to your word." And then friends, she goes to see her cousin Elizabeth, who the angel told her, even though Elizabeth was really old, that she too was pregnant and soon to give birth.

Mary journeys by herself to see Elizabeth—I think to see if any of this was true—And Elizabeth, well past the age when a woman would have a child, Elizabeth is very pregnant and soon due.

One look, one hug with Elizabeth, solidifies her resolve and this then is when a 14 year old girl, offers words that will make any tyrant fear and every being, every living soul who longs for something more to stop, listen, and hear God's call for something changing in our world.

That is where we are today friends.

A girl who says, “yes.”

Who says, ‘hot damn yes---I will do this, because with God, nothing is impossible.”
With God, what we do matters. With God, what we do matters.

Mary, the woman, who bears the child of God, having seen what the angel said was true responds with more than just a “Let it be to me according to your words.” Never forget that this 14 year old girl now says these words, prays these words, sings these words, The Magnificat: paraphrased by Rory Cooney:

My soul cries out with a joyful shout

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry
Mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn...!

A portion of The Canticle of the Turning
Rory Cooney 2011

So it is dear friends, the world is again, about to turn, because with God nothing is impossible. Amen.

The Canticle of the Turning is sung.

May the Peace of God which passes all understanding ...