

### **CHRISTMAS, IT'S ALL GOOD – PART 3: READY OR NOT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

*Christmas is the “ready or not...believe it or not, here I come” holiday. And God is coming for you, because he’s for you. Belief is how we move in his direction. He has already moved in ours.*

#### **READ LUKE 1:5-38**

- What are some ways not having a child might have been a big deal in the first century Jewish culture?
- In what ways might Zechariah being chosen to make the incense altar been one of the best days of his priestly career?
- In what ways would the birth of a son be received as good news to Zechariah?
- Why do you think Zechariah might have asked how he could be sure?
- Elizabeth described God as kind when she got pregnant? Are there ways in your life you would describe God as kind?
- How does “favored” meaning an object of God’s grace factor into God’s choosing of Mary in this moment of history?
- What are some barriers to belief that the “virgin birth” creates for some people?
- If the virgin birth would provide less credibility to the story of the first Christmas, why would Luke have included it (especially given that he thoroughly investigated everything to write an orderly account)?
- How might you feel or respond if you were in either of these pieces of the story of the first Christmas?
- What aspects of the story of the first Christmas can be seen as a “God’s gonna do it anyway” story?
- What next step will you take to be ready for the good news of Jesus’ birth?

**CHRISTMAS IS THE “READY OR NOT...BELIEVE IT OR NOT...HERE I COME STORY!”**